

BLAZER

Joliet Junior College

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Remembering *Dr. Martin Luther King*



Photo by Krystal Moya

Performing in the spirit of brotherhood for Martin Luther King week, Brother Kelan Phil Cohran plays his African infused jazz on the Main Campus Bridge. Read more on...

Page 6

By Patrick Knasiak

On Jan. 16 seats filled in seconds when moderator Adam Heidenreich welcomed the audience to the Martin Luther King Jr. JJC panel. The bridge hushed as he introduced the panel.

Vice President of Academic Affairs Dennis Haynes, Vice President of Student Development Dr. Betsy Oudenhoven, Manager of Recruitment and Diversity Todd Byrd, the Latino Student Services Specialist Louise Blazquez and Heidenreich all composed the panel.

Following introductions, the panel moved from the stage to seats in the audience in an attempt to promote dialogue between themselves and the audience.

Oudenhoven was the first to speak her opening statement. She said on the day that MLK was shot she was 12 and did not quite understand what had happened. She knew it had a large impact on the people around her.

She said, "King was courageous and peaceful; education is his legacy—education available to all students."

Haynes was next to speak.

"Dr. King was a prophet... no African star would exist without Dr. King," he said.

"Dr. King was jailed over 20 times for his actions. He didn't just talk the talk; he walked the walk," Haynes continued. "Education is the key to furthering Dr. King's

vision."

Blazquez said that MLK was "God-like to live in a world of violence and not be violent."

She said, "We still haven't reached that 'mountain top' but Dr. King still lives in spirit."

Byrd said, "We must push to further King's dream." Byrd also expressed how the youth should attempt to make a difference in society: Education is the first step for the youth to "make a difference in society."

Byrd was very adamant in saying that the burden of education lies on the students. "It's not the teachers' job to educate."

After the opening statements, the floor was opened up for discussion. Numerous people spoke up in agreement with the panel's statements, some telling the stories of how their life changed the day King was shot.

One audience member said, "never compromise what you believe in."

Dajuan Johnson, a student, said, "We must appreciate the past and learn from it in order to change the future."

Later Johnson said of the panel, "It influenced me to stay strong, when there is a will, there is a way."

The following day was the MLK themed JJC Squares, and the bridge was riotous again, creating a fun environment to honor MLK.

The event was modeled after the Hollywood Squares game show with faculty acting as the celebrities for the contestants to agree or disagree with.

The questions reflected the life of MLK, from the personal to the incarceration in the Birmingham jail, and all points in between.



Photo by Patrick Knasiak

PANEL FOR PEACE: From left: Todd Byrd, Louise Blazquez, Dennis Haynes, Dr. Betsy Oudenhoven and Adam Heidenreich speak about MLK and his message in honor of MLK Week.

Update: Smoking policy *blazes* across JJC campuses

By Krystal Moya

For anyone whose New Year's resolution was to quit smoking, Illinois' made it that much easier by enacting the new smoking policy, and Joliet Junior College rang in the New Year much the same.

The Smoke Free Illinois Act stipulates that all public buildings are to be smoke free and anyone smoking must be at least 15 feet away from any entrance.

JJC took it just another step further and limited smoking to only certain designated areas and parking lots.

The final decision differed from the

proposed plan that JJC committees informed the *Blazer* of in the fall semester, in which smoking was to be restricted to the parking lots or possibly a complete ban of on-campus smoking.

The new designated areas added, according to the JJC website, are:

- **Main Campus:**
- **J-Building—North Lot 2**—benches next to the motorcycle parking
- **T-Building—East Lot 2**—benches on the parking lot side of the sculpture
- **A-Building—East Lot 3 & 4**—at the front of the grassy median between east

lot 3 & 4

- **Faculty East Lot 4**—the grassy area by the sidewalk leading to Vet Tech
- **Highland Area**—in the grassy area just east of the Facility Services service road
- **South Lot 1**—in the vicinity of the bus stop
- **South Lot 2**—in the vicinity of the boiler house
- **North Campus:** Adjacent to the parking lot at the edge of the patio on the south side of the building.
- **City Center Campus:** At the northwest

corner of the Renaissance Center where the parking lot meets the sidewalk.

Grundy County Center: Fifteen feet from the entrances.

Weitendorf Agricultural Education Center: The landscape area at the east of the main entrance.

A \$250 fine and a referral to the student code of conduct are the punishments for breaking the new policies.

The warning period for such infractions ended Jan. 21.

OPINION

EDITORIAL

Time to toss off apathy

This is a public service announcement:

Have you ever heard the questions—

"Would you like fries with that?"

"Would you like a Barnes and Nobles membership? You can save 10 percent!"

"Would you like Obama or McCain?" "Hillary or Romney?"

No, well please pay attention to this shocking revelation:

Millions of students will sit at home this spring and fall and do nothing as others go to the polls.

In a world where choices are given for just about everything, one would think that voting for one's president would be top priority in the long list of choices. Or, at least on the agenda of today's voting-aged youth.

However, across the globe, and noticeably at JJC, voter apathy has stricken communities of students with a violent illness that causes laziness, procrastination and an overwhelming loss of direction. Be careful, it's deadly!

Little do the afflicted students know, but the cure lies in reading up and getting involved in politics that dictate their future, not in watching *I Love New York* and *A Shot at Love* marathons.

Some may say, "I am just one vote, how do I count?"

To that, scientists have explored the deadly voter apathy disease and have concluded that without voting, students become engrossed in constantly feeling that one's government is inadequate because some rogue candidate took over because of the small, devoted followings who turned off their TVs and made it to the polls.

So please, on behalf of the Blazer and this paid-for public service announcement, get out and vote in the Illinois primary and the 2008 general election. By choosing just one candidate based on any platform, you can save yourself from post-vote apathy. You have the power. With your help, we can stop voter apathy now!

A time to remember:

The importance of involvement at JJC

Brandon Daun

Years from now when someone asks you what your greatest college memory was, what will you say? Maybe it was meeting a significant other. Maybe it was finally earning a degree or going to those infamous parties that college students have. But, the sad truth is that between attending classes, finishing home work and working, college will be remembered more as a burden than a joyous time.

But can college really be so bleak? College is supposed to be a learning experience that enriches us academically, socially and personally. One day you may look back on your time in college and think about what you missed, what you should have done differently.

The greatest way to prevent you from one day questioning where the magic of your college years went is to simply get involved. Take advantage of scholarships

and grants, try to work part time and try to spend more time at campus. There are numerous advantages to becoming involved in a club or activity, not to mention how enriched you might feel after becoming an active component of JJC.

As much as a tradition as buying books or taking final exams, it seems that at least once in a college education a major will be questioned or changed, avoid changing majors too many times, become involved in clubs or activities. This will help students to realize what they like about their possible career or open new doors and limitless possibilities as to career interests. Also, a job search will be much easier if your resume has a few clubs and activities included. Showing that you were involved in clubs during your college years will show potential employers that you are experienced, dedicated and outgoing, essentially showing that you have several qualities

needed to make it in the career field.

Career reasons should not be the only reason to become involved. This is a time to make memories and experience as much as possible. Joining a club may introduce you to new people and allow you to make new friends. Getting involved in campus activities will allow you to feel positive. Campus activities are perfect opportunities to meet people and make memories. After all, how much fun can you get out of college if all you do is attend campus just to go to class?

JJC provides seemingly limitless opportunities for students to get involved. There are countless clubs and organizations, and it seems as if each week there are new events and activities taking place on the Center Bridge. Posters and fliers can be found on nearly every wall advertising a meeting or event where students are encouraged to join or attend. The opportunity is there, all that is needed is a little

initiative.

Quite simply, college is a time to remember. During college people develop academically, socially and personally. College is a golden opportunity to make friendships, make memories and learn life lessons. Don't make the mistake of not becoming involved in campus clubs or campus activities. Many employers will understand, and work schedules can always be changed or modified to accommodate the schedule of a college student.

Years from now, you may look back on college and think about all of the potential friendships and acquaintances that were not formed because the effort was not made to become more involved. Since college is a once in a lifetime experience and will possibly be remembered as one of the greatest times of your life, doesn't it make sense to make the most of it and become involved while the best years of your life are still in front of you?

Question of the Issue

Q: Who are you voting for in the 2008 presidential election?



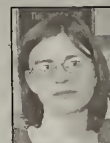
A: "Either Hillary or Obama because they would be the first presidents that is not a white male"—Aurora Bibler



A: "I don't know yet because I am still trying to get my information on all the candidates"—Roger Izaquiere



A: Ron Paul because he advocates policy against the CFR and the elitist class that rule the world"—Ray Sherry



A: "Barack Obama because he is a new face on politics"—Michelle Wilhelm

Letter Policy

The Blazer welcomes and encourages participation by our readers. Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters so we can verify authenticity. Letters should be 300 words or fewer. We reserve the right to edit for space and content. You may send your letter through inter-office mail, regular mail, email at blazeremail@jjc.edu, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office in F-1009.

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The Blazer is a student-run publication. Opinions expressed in the Blazer do not necessarily reflect the views of the faculty or of the administration of Joliet Junior College.

Correction

All corrections refer to the *Professor Profile* on Noella D'Cruz featured in the Dec. 5, 2007 issue

Dr. Noella D'Cruz is an associate professor in the Natural Sciences and Physical Education Department.

ASTR 101 courses have not doubled. PHYS 125 - "Life

in the Universe" was added to provide a choice of class offerings to students interested in Astronomy.

The terms Astronomy and Astrology were mistakenly interchanged.

According to D'Cruz, "Astronomy is a science. It involves a continuous study of the Universe and its physical principals, through experiments,

observation and theoretical modeling. Astrology is not a science."

The article states that D'Cruz returned from the University of Sydney in October 2000. The date should read "October 2002."

D'Cruz does not train students for "community service." She trains them to assist in telescope viewing events for the community.

WANTED

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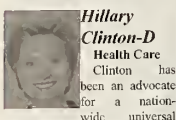


Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives

NEWS

The Primary Race:

MEET THE CANDIDATES



Hillary Clinton-D
Health Care

Clinton has been an advocate for a nationwide universal healthcare program funded by the government to insure the 47 million Americans that do not have health insurance. Her plan allows everyone to be covered through affordable insurance, and new tax credits.

The War in Iraq

Clinton stands firm in believing that the war in Iraq could be ended before the next president takes an oath of office with her plan, Iraq Troop Protection and Reduction Act of 2007. However, if it is not adopted by the Bush administration, she will adopt it in her presidency ending the war in little over a year.

Environment

Clinton plans to aid in energy independence and the fight against global warming by investing in 20- to 30-year plans. The plans will be presided over by the National Energy Council to ensure the plans succeed. It that will progress the country to hybrid cars, biofuels, green-homes, green industry, comprehensive reports of harmful environmental factors to the SEC from businesses, and more.

MORE ON PAGE 10

John

Edwards-D
Health Care

Edwards plans to take on universal health care by requiring businesses to cover their employees or provide aid to finance their insurance, lowering the cost of insurance through tax credits, expanding Medicaid and SCHIP and reforming insurance laws.

The War in Iraq

Edwards supports an immediate draw-down to 40,000 to 50,000 troops, as well as a complete withdrawal of all combat troops within 10 months from Iraq. He wants to retain some bases in Kuwait and other friendly areas for quick reaction and containment. He is also requiring troops to meet readiness standards before shipping out in order to affectively use funds.

Environment

Edwards wants to enact a new climate treaty that would be shared world-wide and require nations that commit to it to reduce their pollution in not only air but water and land fills. He also wants to create a new energy fund by auctioning off \$10 billion in greenhouse pollution permits. Also be predicts by 2050 global warming should decrease by 80 percent.

MORE ON PAGE 10

By Krystal Moya

This year's primary race for the 2008 presidential election has been the most televised and reported primary in history. JJC's students have become involved in this increase of political awareness with two new political clubs for student Democrats and Republicans. This issue of the Blazer dedicates the news section to the primary race in order to better acquaint the student body with some of the candidates' stances. Both parties are choosing candidates for the fall election. All information on the platforms was taken from the candidates' official campaign websites. To learn more about these candidates and their stances please visit their websites, listed on Page 10, and watch the presidential debates that can be found on YouTube.com.



Mike Gravel-D
Health Care

Gravel indicates that he supports a universal health care program, only his would be paid for by part of the retail sales tax, a portion of the Progressive Fair tax, and citizens would pay nothing for health benefits on basic coverage.

The War in Iraq

Gravel seeks diplomacy in Iraq, in which the US uses the help of neighboring countries to solve the civil war diplomatically. He wants the troops to be removed approximately 120 days after inauguration. Gravel also discusses the business of the war, intending to hand all business contracts for reconstruction over to Iraqi companies allowing the economy in Iraq to regroup.

Environment

As with all Democratic candidates, Gravel intends to use the tax and cap method to curb carbon emissions in which polluting businesses will be taxed heavily and new laws will provide a "cap" to the maximum amounts emission. Gravel advocates the environmental cause to strongly oppose deforestation and encourage the cooperation of global polluters, China and India, along with America, to fight climate change.

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Barack

Obama-D
Health Care

Obama's approach to health care is the universal health care program that would cover everyone under an affordable premium that resembles the current health care plan congress members have. He also wants to reform the private insurance industry to ensure fairness and affordability across the spectrum under a government watchdog group.

The War in Iraq

Obama intends to have all combat brigades out of Iraq within 16 months of inauguration. From there, he wants to emphasize a diplomatic approach that will work to reconcile Iraq's party leaders and improve upon relations in the civil war. The diplomacy will then continue to

involve different regional players in the Middle East, including Iran and Syria.

Environment

Obama also supports the cap and trade system that will provide the projected 80 percent energy emission decrease by 2050. He also advocates investing \$150 billion over the next 10 years in clean, green sciences and technologies. All manufacturing technologies will be converted to green methods, making America a leader in green technology.

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Rudy Giuliani-R
Health Care

Giuliani believes in tax cuts to increase competition and motivate the health insurance industry to lower prices on its own. He also believes in putting the decision to buy health insurance in the hands of the people and not "bureaucrats."

The War in Iraq

The war in Iraq, according to Giuliani, should not have the troops withdrawn on an artificial time table because it would lead to the "emboldening of our enemies." He believes that staying within Iraq with combat troops will ensure the rebuilding of Iraq on a more solid foundation than the Iraqi people alone.

Environment

Giuliani's environmental platform encompasses new research into energy sources and the use of biofuels for vehicles. He argues that America must expand its use of clean nuclear power, use clean natural gas, and focus on coal sequestration.

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Mike Huckabee-R
Health Care

Huckabee believes that the health care problems originate in the emphasis of government funding to fight chronic diseases rather than prevention. By aiding the preventative quality of health care, the industry should be able to provide better health for all people at a more affordable rate because it will no longer be consumed in research in curing diseases that can often be prevented.

The War in Iraq

Huckabee believes that the Iraq war is just a microcosm of the real war ahead. The Iraq war is a world war with terrorism which Huckabee believes must be fought with single-mindedness. He intends to continue fighting for "democracy in the Middle East."

Environment

Huckabee urges Congress to explore a comprehensive energy independence plan to stop reliance on foreign oil markets with an emphasis on exploring new energy sources such as nuclear, wind, solar, hydrogen, clean coal, biodiesel, and biomass.

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John McCain-R
Health Care

McCain believes in solving the problems of the health care industry through an increase in competition between health care providers and insurance companies. He intends to initiate a \$2,500 tax credit for individuals with insurance and \$5,000 for families in order to motivate people to purchase insurance. He also intends to expand Medicare and Medicaid.

The War in Iraq

McCain wants to continue the war in Iraq in order to squash terrorism and promote democracy in the Middle East. He intends to install a new counterinsurgency plan that will allow the troops to more effectively subdue attacks and reduce tension on the political region there. He also wants to increase the Iraqi armed forces and police in order to aid the country's efforts to resolve their civil war.

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Ron Paul-R
Health Care

Paul intends to make all medical expenses tax deductible, eliminate regulations on employer-employee coverage, give doctors negotiating privileges to lower insurance costs and to reform licensure requirements for pharmacists and nurses so that they can perform basic tasks creating faster, better care at a more affordable rate.

The War in Iraq

Paul believes that war was entered under false pretenses and intends to end it and bring the troops home. He encourages diplomacy and the aiding of U.S. allies over unfriendly groups to avoid further problems like those with the Afghan jihadists.

Environment

Paul focuses on the environmental cause of finding new, sustainable energy sources

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Mitt Romney-R
Health Care

Romney believes that starting on a state level with the elimination of insurance regulations will help alleviate increasing insurance costs, and on the federal level by creating tax deductibles for health care expenses. He also believes in stopping medical "free-riders" that use emergency care instead of investing in medical insurance.

The War in Iraq

Romney wants to continue the US military's stay in Iraq and successfully complete the attempt to secure democracy by launching "a new type of Marshall Plan that will unify nonmilitary sources of power to support moderate Muslims."

Environment

Romney wants to "promote nuclear technology and accelerate construction of new nuclear power plants in order to ensure that nuclear power continues to be a part of a robust, cleaner, and reliable energy mix."

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How to register to vote

By Krystal Moya

Register to vote using JJC's website by clicking on the link on the main web page at the bottom, right-hand corner labeled "Register to Vote." This will take you to the Illinois State Election Board's voting registration site. You can fill out the application electronically, but you must print it out to send it to the headquarters in Springfield stamped and signed. Other sites to register at are:

Illinois State Election Board

<http://www.elections.il.gov/VotingInformation/VoteRegForms.aspx>

Rock the Vote-Rolling Stone

<http://rockthevote.com/ElectionImpact>

<https://electionimpact.votenet.com/declare-yourself/voterreg/index.cfm>

MTV's Think
<http://think.mtv.com/>



Will County solicits students to be election judges

By Krystal Moya
Will County Clerk Nancy Schultz Voets has indicated on her website that the county is calling on students to be hired as election judges for the 2008 primaries and further elections.

Using the traditional Uncle Sam image to advertise, Voets says she "needs you," and any student able to vote to cash in on this opportunity.

All election judges can earn

\$90 for the election served and an additional \$45 for the required training session.

Students, as well as other citizens who are hired, will begin work at 5:30 a.m. and conduct the polling until polls are closed.

Election judges serve to certify that all voters had their chance to vote and were officially qualified to do so.

Election judge criteria as stated by Illinois Statutes, 10ILCS 5/13-4, are:

"[Must] be a citizen of the United States able to vote at the next election; be of good repute and character; be able to speak, read and write the English language; be skilled in the four fundamental rules of arithmetic; be of good understanding and capable to perform duties; not be a candidate for any office at the election nor an elected precinct committeeman; reside in the precinct in which they are elected to serve, however, there can be exceptions to this rule."

Students who qualify in the aforementioned categories can apply at http://www.willclerk.com/images/whens/Election_Judge_Application.htm or call (815) 740-4617.

News Briefs

"It's Easier Than You Think"

Tobias Brown, a recent graduate of Central State University, shares his tips and hints to achieving educational success. See him on Wednesday, Jan. 30, 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. on the center bridge. For more information call Jennifer Reardon at (815) 280-6709 or e-mail jreardon@jjc.edu.

Totally Committed-JJC Gospel Choir & Joliet Central High School Gospel Choir

Join Project Achieve in presenting Joliet Central Gospel Choir and the Totally Committed Ensemble in celebrating a new year filled with unlimited possibilities and great expectations.

The concert is on Friday, Feb. 8, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the theatre.

Winter Formal Ball

Dress to Impress at the Winter Formal Ball! Cover Charge: \$5.00 in advance and \$10.00 at the door. The ball is on Friday, Feb. 8, 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. in the cafeteria.

African American Quiz

Test your knowledge on African American History on Tuesday, Feb. 19, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the center bridge.

Success Stories feat. Ramsey Mallory

Success Story Series guest speaker Ramsey Mallory. He is a counsel with Andersen and Associates, P.C. and is a sports agent. He speaks on Wednesday, Feb. 20, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Centennial Commons clubhouse. For more information call Delia Ulloa at (815) 280-2328 or e-mail duelloa@jjc.edu.

Target grant improves JJC's North Campus

By Brandon Daun

Students enrolled in courses at the Joliet Junior College's North Campus will now have access to new equipment in their classrooms thanks to a grant that was recently received from Target.

JJC recently earned a \$2,500 grant from Target, which was used to install equipment in North Campus classrooms.

All North Campus classrooms are now equipped with a computer, LCD projector, sound system, VCR and DVD players and an instructor's podium like those in Main Campus classroom settings.

According to JJC extended campuses coordinator Amy Luck,

an organization can apply for the Target Community Leadership Grant if recommended by an employee within the Target Corporation.

While the Target store at Weber road was being built, Target had rented space from the North Campus and held several job fairs there.

"This partnership with the Target members allowed us to discuss our campus needs with them," Luck said, "and resulted in a recommendation to apply for the grant."

The recommendation was made by the manager of the Weber road Target store, Matt Stockdale.

Through this grant JJC equipped

two classrooms at the North Campus with new equipment, and now each classroom at the North Campus has enhanced the quality of learning.

There are currently GED, ESL and several general education classes currently scheduled in the rooms that have been outfitted with the new equipment.

"The funding that we received from Target facilitates student learning by providing our faculty with the technology needed to enhance the delivery of programs," said Luck.

"This impacts the work and life skills of those students who either choose to continue their education or enter the workforce."

Police Blotter

Residential Burglary

On Jan. 2, an officer was dispatched to Centennial Commons for a burglary report. Upon arrival, the officer was told that a resident had found several items missing upon returning to the apartment from a two-week leave. The resident reported a JVC Stereo/CD Player, 4 CDs and miscellaneous food items missing from the apartment. The officer noted entry appeared to have been made through a window. No other residents were available for questioning due to their leave for Christmas break.

Criminal Trespass

On Jan. 6 while on gate patrol at Centennial Commons, an officer observed a vehicle in a no parking area. As the individual started to exit the vehicle, the officer addressed the subject and the subject quickly got back into the vehicle and parked in South Lot 2. The officer ran the license plate and the owner checked on the trespass list. The officer noticed A'veon Jones enter the Commons through the north gate, at which time the officer questioned him and asked for ID. After confirming Jones was trespassing, the officer placed him under arrest for Criminal Trespass to Real Property. Police

said He bonded out and was given a court date.

Unlawful Use of Debit Card; Theft

On Jan. 11, an officer met with a subject who stated their debit card was stolen, possibly on campus. The subject told the officer that their bank had contacted them saying they canceled the card due to fraudulent use. The subject explained that she hadn't used the card that day, but did recall leaving a purse unattended for a minute. The officer took the details for the report and advised the subject to file a report with the Joliet Police Department since they were unsure where exactly the card went missing.

Theft

On Jan. 11, while patrolling, an officer was dispatched to return to the police department to take a theft report. Upon arrival, the officer was told a subject had gone to Joliet for a meeting and discovered his items missing sometime later. The subject reported a down-filled jacket, black cap, a pair of black leather gloves and a gray jacket missing.

On Jan. 17, an officer spoke with a student about a theft that occurred in the cafeteria. The officer was told the student had left a book bag unattended for a

few minutes to get something from the lunch line and an unknown subject removed a Driver's License, a Social Security card and an ATM card from a wallet inside the bag.

The student didn't see anyone suspicious while in the cafeteria and didn't notice the items were missing until attempting to use the bank card. The student didn't have any illegal activity on his account, but the officer issued an Identity Theft Packet and advised the student to notify the Credit Bureau.

Informational

On Jan. 16, an officer was dispatched to J4022 to meet with a custodian who observed a rope made into a noose hanging from the movie screen. The officer began an investigation and issued a campus-wide email listing the occurrence.

Several hours later, the officer received a phone call from an instructor indicating he had accidentally left the rope in the room after speaking on the topic of the history of the noose and how it should be taken seriously. He stated it was a visual aid and nothing else. The officer had another mass-email sent to the college community informing them of the outcome of the investigation.

WANTED

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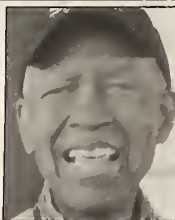
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FEATURES



'It was a privilege to watch him play'

JJC treated to performance from African musicologist Brother Kelan Phil Cohran

By Krystal Moya

From an initial glance at the thin, frail frame of Brother Kelan Phil Cohran, clad in a turquoise velvet zip-up, tiny mock-turtleneck and worn Shaq gym shoes, one would not recognize him as the embodiment of wisdom and pride.

But "he is," said his publicist and former JJC student Laron Pettis.

Cohran, 80, has spent a lifetime researching the history of African astronomy in accompaniment with musical engagement and inventing new musical instruments.

In 1993, the Adler Planetarium had Cohran write the music behind their most influential, highest selling program since 1961, called "African Skies."

The program went on to a world tour, but Cohran's music stayed behind.

"We still cool, though," said Cohran in a chuckle. The audience's smiles spread.

Cohran also served as a musicologist teaching bands such as Earth Wind and Fire and artists such as Chaka Khan.

His wide musical span also encompasses writing musical activism, such as his CD compilation "Malcolm X."

At the time of his performance, this album was in London's top ten.

He graced JJC's stage on the center bridge to a small but affected audience as a part of Project Achieve's contributions to Martin Luther King week.

Cohran's ancient black Fender amp and KB/A 100 proved that time has no effect on music as his African-infused jazz filled the bridge from J to C buildings.

Cohran used an innovative method of playing the harp that he explained was the ancient art of African harpists. He also produced and played dozens of self-invented fronkphones, or thumb guitars, during his performance, explaining the significance of each, as well as playing the trumpet and flat violin.

Susan Jerl, a student at JJC, sat with tears in her eyes in the back of the show listening to him go through a playlist that encompassed several decades.

"It was a privilege to watch him play. Just . . . a privilege," she said with little drops of saline decorating her red cheeks.

Cohran was all too happy to see toddlers dancing with their parents and to meet the people who he had touched enough to make them cry.

"You're exposed to a lot of energy when you listen to music," said Cohran about his audience.

"You can dance, you can cry."

Cohran swayed and smiled with his music all the while, but he did express some disappointment with the setting.

"Having people walking by and trying to get the acoustics just ruins the performance. I have to deal with distractions and try to control the sound that I wouldn't have to in a theatre or concert hall," he said.

Cohran, however, knows he did his best to reach his goal.

"I want to be a perfect servant to my music, to my knowledge. I want to show these kids good music and the history, no," he paused, "the science behind it,"

"Music is a science."

Photo By Krystal Moya

Strolling down Main Street A look at the booths at JJC

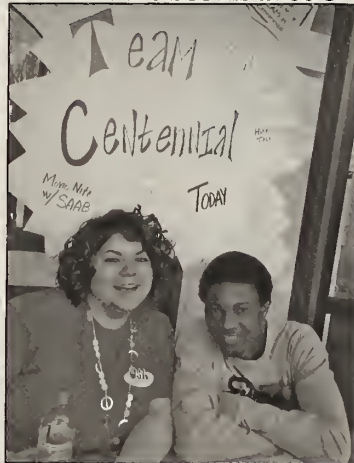


Photo by Sheena Neal

Cheese for the Commons: Two students pose at a booth for Centennial Commons activity committee.



Photo by Sheena Neal

Doing Business: The business department enticed new students at a Main Street booth with teacher Bill O'Connor at the helm.

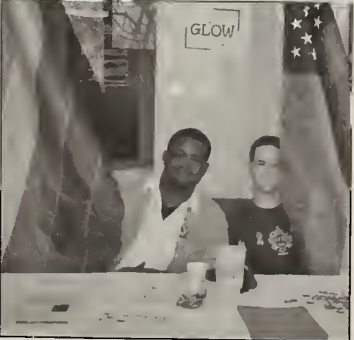


Photo by Sheena Neal

Bearing Flags: Glow, a club that emphasizes gay and lesbian understanding, gave advice on how to get involved.

GET IT AT NLU

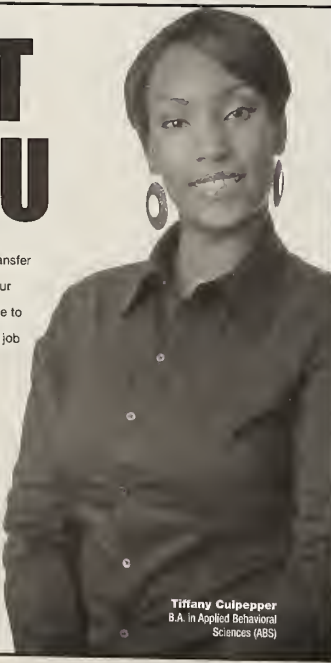
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Tiffany Culpepper
B.A. in Applied Behavioral
Sciences (ABS)

celebrate remember fight back relay for life

By Katie Ulivi

The All College Relay for Life kickoff event was held Tuesday, Jan. 22, marking the start of Joliet Junior College's 2008 participation in this annual event dedicated this year to "Celebrate. Remember. Fight Back."

"This kickoff ceremony is to get the teams excited about Relay for Life," according to Ria Reyes, the American Cancer Society representative.

At the kickoff event students obtained information about Relay for Life through speeches and a touching memoir of previous relays, in addition to information on how to fundraise efficiently.

Relay for Life is a fundraising event organized internationally by the American Cancer Society.

The relay is an 11-hour memorial to those who are affected by the reach of cancer. Teams participate in this overnight marathon, which consists of track laps and other activities.

Last year's relay raised a total of \$26,000 dollars. JJC, St. Francis and Lewis University all participate to raise money

for cancer research and care. According to Amy Sims, JJC's Coordinator of Holistic Wellness and Student Activities, this event was initially organized in 2005 to "bring all three colleges together as a community."

Many clubs have teams in this year's relay: Centennial Commons, Office of Student Affairs, Gamers Club, Honors Program, softball team, and men's basketball.

"There is more excitement this year than last year, and this is early still," said Sims.

The All College Relay for Life will

be at the Lewis University field house on April 11-12.

Join in this cause to help those impacted by cancer hope for a cure in the future for this devastating illness.

Become involved with relay to remember or support those who have felt cancer's impact and you will leave with the memories of a lifetime.

Contact Amy Sims by email at asims@jjc.edu or phone (815) 280-2202 to see how you can support the fight.



Photo by Katie Ulivi

RACE FOR A CURE: Amy Sims, director of student activities, introduces the Relay for Life charity event for the American Cancer Society, in which participants take part in an 11-hour relay that will raise money for research.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Shows planned

JJC Theater heats up for the season

By Shawn Faust

The Joliet Junior College theater department has several events planned for the spring semester.

How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, a musical written by Abe Burrows, Jack Weinstock, and Willie Gilbert with music and lyrics by Frank Loesser, directed by Dr. Zachary Bloomfield with music direction by Sue Malmberg; *Frozen*, a play written by Byrny Lavry, directed by Clay Kirkland; *Musica Viva* which includes several free music performances by JJC faculty, alumni, and guest

party, backstabbing, caffeine addiction, and true love.

Nikki Blowers, theater manager at JJC, believes the performance will be worthwhile as she states: "The entire cast is quite talented."

Shane Tierney, who plays Mr. Gatch, a sexually inappropriate executive in the musical, comments, "the chemistry between the actors is great. I feel like we are all really good friends."

Yet productions this semester are not all comedic. With a breathtaking script, *Frozen* proves

"The chemistry between the actors is great. I feel like we are all really good friends."

-Shane Tierney

to be more serious of the two productions as it introduces the audience to a serial killer, the mother of one of his young victims, and a psychiatrist conducting research on the criminal mind.

also in the Fine Arts Theater.

How to Succeed in a Comedic Satire is a business which follows the rise of a window washer, J. Pierpont Finch, the lead role played by Josh Carlson, who climbs the corporate ladder through the use of a how-to-book.

Through music and dancing performed by students from JJC's music programs and directed by Malmberg, the audience is introduced to a variety of characters who encounter workplace nepotism, a wild office

Winner of the 1998 Barclay Award for Best New Play and the 2004 Tony Award Nominee for Best Play, the play allows the audience to examine the human capacity for forgiveness, remorse, and change through the three characters introduced.

How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying will be performed Thursday, Feb. 28 to Sunday, March 2.

Frozen will be performed Thursday April 1 to Sunday, April 20.

Review

'Cloverfield' a shocking update to 'Godzilla'



It's a Bird, It's a Plane: Cloverfield characters (from left) Rob Hawkins, Marlena Diamond and Lily Ford stare up in horror at J.J. Abrams, Matt Reeves and Drew Goddard's creation.

By Matt Sheehan

There is one key aspect to the monster movie: the monster, of course. Is he scary?

Does he have an unmatched power?

Can he utter a terrifying howl?

Is he able to move at a speed that seems like slow motion but everything else is moving at a normal speed?

Above all, is he strong enough to carry a story?

In *Cloverfield*, the answer to all of the above is a resounding yes.

Shot from the perspective of a handheld camera in New York City, *Cloverfield* opens with a surprise party being held for Rob Hawkins (Michael Stahl-David), who is leaving for Japan in the morning as the new vice president of the company he works for.

At the party is Rob's brother Jason (Mike Vogel), Jason's girlfriend Lily (Jessica Lucas) and friend/camera guy Hud Platt (T.J. Miller), among a vast amount of others.

Arriving fashionably late—and with another man—is Rob's best friend and love-of-his-life Beth McInerney (Odette Yustman). After a brief fight about her escort to the party, Beth storms out of the party, leaving Rob depressed and angry.

Suddenly, a massive tremor shakes the apartment building from the ground up. Making their way to the roof to check out the situation, a massive

explosion occurs downtown, and, as they flee the building a large object comes barreling down onto the street: the decapitated head of the Statue of Liberty.

As his friends struggle to make it out of the city alive, Rob is set on making his way to Beth.

Slowly, each new glance of the situation reveals a gigantic monster that has come to terrorize and destroy the city. Tearing through the streets, the creature releases smaller "things" that run around like giant spiders biting and clawing at human prey.

All the while, the military uses every available soldier, gun, tank and missile launcher to bombard the monster—which could be of their creation.

It may be a clichéd claim, but *Cloverfield* is very much *Godzilla* meets *The Blair Witch Project*.

While there are some who found *Blair Witch* to be silly and stupid, don't let the comparison stop you from seeing this, the creation of a new monster movie genre: the socially conscious monster.

In our post-9/11 world, it is shocking to see a movie showcasing the attack of New York City. It is even more shocking that a monstrosity of our own government's making is causing the terror.

Wait, wasn't that shown in *Charlie Wilson's War*, too?

We gave money, arms and

training to Afghan freedom fighters during the Cold War, but turned the other cheek when it came time to rebuild Afghanistan.

One of those fighters used the weapons and training against us: Osama bin Laden.

Cloverfield plays right into the anxieties many Americans feel regarding attacks against our country, and it does so in an overt, conspicuous manner. And nothing is more shocking to our country than to see the symbol of freedom, the Statue of Liberty, standing there in the dark with no head.

With the cast of relatively unknowns, the film truly helps generate the realism necessary for this to pass off as an evidence tape of the Department of Defense.

It opens with a time stamp and watermark saying "Property of U.S. Government—Do Not Duplicate"—are they really pushing for anti-piracy of this film?

Producer J.J. Abrams (creator of *Alias* and *Lost*) and director Matt Reeves really crafted a thrilling motion picture, the first great one of 2008.

That notwithstanding, *Cloverfield* is a terrific movie, a fine entertainment experience that is both suspenseful and shocking, a monstrous achievement of terror and social anxiety.

My rating: 3-and-a-half stars out of four.

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Cloverfield is rated PG-13 for violence, terror and disturbing images

Spring 2008's Welcome Week brings the good noise to JJC's halls

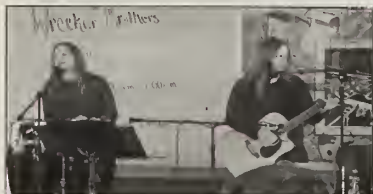


Photo By Krystal Moya

WRECKER BROTHERS: To see the Wrecker Brothers' JJC performance on YouTube, go to www.youtube.com/jcasproductions, and to see more about the band visit their website at www.thewreckerbrothers.com.

By Nick Domberg

Joliet Junior College students were greeted with a variety of events on the Main Campus bridge in order to ease into the often stressful start of the new semester. This spring's Welcome Week included a live acoustic performance from rock duo The Wrecker Brothers, a bean bag tournament, a Guitar Hero gaming section and free food on Jan. 9 and 10.

The OSA student workers, along with event coordinators Amy Sims and Paul Schroeder, collaborated to organize this semester's Welcome Week on the first week of classes.

Schroeder, an advisor to the JJC Gamers Club, helped coordinate the open Guitar Hero sessions. Both newcomers and experienced gamers enjoyed the popular game provided by the Gamers Club.

Sims also added the Wrecker Brothers for the Welcome Week.

They played on Jan. 10 from 11:00 to 1:00 on the bridge, with a set list including everything from the Rolling Stones to Bob Marley, as well as some original songs.

The Wrecker Brothers, Andrew and Steve Becker, are both JJC students. They said that "it was a comfortable atmosphere," and they "apologize for making anyone late for their first classes while sticking around to hear the tunes."

Student Jose Herrera said that the games and music helped him, "blow off steam," and said, "activities like this give the college a more social setting."

His friend Ismael Ochou said, "Lots of students were singing along."

Schroeder says for students to keep an eye out in the future for possible Madden game-play on the bridge.

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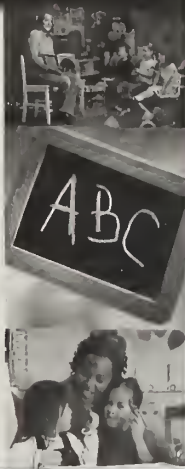
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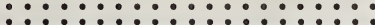
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'Primary' from Page 4

Note:

Hillary Clinton-D Social Issues

Clinton is pro-choice and will maintain Roe v. Wade. She also plans to expand funding in planned family care, aiding low-income women and their families as well as increasing awareness through a medically accurate, age-appropriate sexual education program.

College Tuition

Clinton intends to lower college tuition costs and aid in the payment process for families by creating a new \$3,500 college tax credit, increasing the maximum Pell Grant, investing \$500 million in community colleges, creating a graduation fund that will motivate and increase graduation rates, making the AmeriCorps full-time, one-year participation scholarship \$10,000 and pairing down the financial aid process, removing red tape.

John Edwards-D Social Issues

Edwards is pro-choice, supports the Paycheck Fairness Act, wants to create a new REACH fund to expand the resources of women business owners, and will entirely fund the Violence Against Women Act.

He also has platform emphasis on ending judicial discrimination for minorities and aiding ex-offenders in literacy programs and training to help them re-enter society. He also wants to "close the digital divide" by funding schools' internet programs in African-American and other

minority communities.

College Tuition

Edwards plans to enact the "College for Everyone" Initiative in which 2 million students will have tuition, fees, and books paid for in return for working part-time in the college, taking a college prep course in high school, and keeping out of the law's way; also, the initiative will encourage states to keep public college tuitions low, evening out the distribution of financial aid. Also, there will be universal eligibility for financial aid.

Mike Gravel-D Social Issues

Gravel is pro-choice and advocates the upholding of Roe v. Wade. He also wants to integrate a sexual education program across the nation that would teach comprehensive, age-appropriate education, as well as in-depth coverage of contraception. He supports the gay and lesbian community along with gay marriage and would like to expand hate-crime legislation.

Barack Obama-D Social Issues

Obama is pro-choice and will ensure the maintenance of the Roe v. Wade ruling. He also wants to governmentally address the minority plight across the country in regards to insufficient schooling, aid and relief for America's different cultures.

College Tuition

College tuition will be made more affordable by Obama by his enacting of a federal tax credit

that will relieve the first \$4,000 of tuition of any college and cover almost two-thirds of the college tuition of the average public college or university.

Rudy Giuliani-R

He also believes that we should expand responsibly to find new American oil sources and limit the dependence on foreign oil companies.

Comprehensive information on social issues such as women, gay and lesbian, and minorities as well as his platform on college tuition, were not on the campaign website.

Mike Huckabee-R Social Issues

Huckabee is pro-life, supporting overturning Roe v. Wade, and rallying for a constitutional amendment that would outlaw abortions across the country. He is also against gay marriage and would like a constitutional amendment to state that marriage is between a man and a woman.

John McCain Environment

McCain emphasizes the maintenance of the national parks system and of ample green space. He also believes in researching nuclear energy as a source for the country.

Social Issues

Huckabee is pro-life and would like to see Roe v. Wade overturned and the power to outlaw abortion returned to the states. He also wants to reach over time a constitutional amendment that would outlaw abortion. He also does not support gay marriage and believes that it is the states' rights to determine whether they will allow it. McCain also addresses his issues with stem-cell research and does not support any experimentation on human embryos, including cloning. However, he does support the use of adult stem cells and amniotic

fluid to aid in scientists' research for cures.

Ron Paul-R

as well as refuting governmental spending on environmentally harmful projects and aiding those that increase awareness and research in green technologies.

Social Issues

Paul is pro-life, however, he believes it to be a state issue and not a constitutional issue. Paul also speaks openly in creating smaller government to aid in the fight against class systems which allow racist mentality to seep into the culture.

College Tuition

Paul introduced the legislation HR 193 that aids in lowering tuition costs, living fees, and loan interest for college students. As president, Paul intends to push this legislation on national scale.

Mitt Romney

He also wants to "bring clean energy technology to market through commercialization of large-scale renewables and advanced nuclear technologies and create clean, efficient uses of existing fossil fuels, e.g. clean coal, coal-to-liquids, carbon sequestration."

Social Issues

Romney is pro-life and wishes to see Roe v. Wade overturned and given back to the states and federal government for the "people" to decide. Romney also supports a constitutional amendment to define marriage as between one man and one woman. Romney also puts a social emphasis on creating stricter obscenity laws and eliminating internet pornography. He also believes in offender punishments for first time offenders of statutory rape and pedophilia by requiring jail time followed by lifetime tracking by Global Positioning Satellite.

The following websites were used in aiding the article on the primary race on pages 4 and 10:

Hillary Clinton-

<http://www.hillaryclinton.com/>

John Edwards-

<http://www.johndwards.com/>

Mike Gravel-

<http://www.gravel2008.us/>

Barack Obama-

<http://www.barackobama.com/index.php>

Rudy Giuliani-

<http://www.joinrudy2008.com/>

Mike Huckabee-

<http://www.mikehuckabee.com/?FuseAction=HQs>

Home

John McCain-

<http://www.johnmccain.com/landing/?sid=gorgancin>

Ron Paul-

<http://www.ronpaul2008.com/>

Mitt Romney-

<http://www.mittromney.com/homepage>

All quotes were taken from these sites with respect to those candidates who said them. All can be found on the websites within the "Issues" links.

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ATHLETES OF THE ISSUE

By Jim Sheldon

Blocker delivers from the arc



Katie Blocker scored 22 points, hitting seven 3-pointers in a 71-63 loss to N4C conference opponent College of DuPage on Jan. 15.

Blocker also scored 14 points in a 54-48 victory over Robert Morris College's junior varsity team.

For the season Blocker is averaging 12 points, two assists, and two steals per game.

Short clutch in win

Adam Short scored a game-high 28 points in a 108-102 overtime victory over Olive-Harvey College on Jan. 17.

Short also scored 17 points in a 64-62 win over N4C conference opponent College of DuPage on Jan. 15.

He was honored as the Region IV Division III Player of the Week on Jan. 14.



Commentary

Giants sentimental favorite -- Pats too strong

By Patrick Blaesing
The New England Patriots entered their Week 17 showdown with the New York Giants, 15-0. The Giants entered, having already clinched a wild card spot. The game was the Giants chance to spoil the Pats chance for perfection.

Trailing the Giants 28-16 midway through the third quarter, the Pats had them right where they wanted them.

New England ripped off 22 straight points to take a 38-28 lead and held on to win 38-35.

The loss, however, in a way gave the Giants, specifically Eli Manning, momentum for the playoffs where the Giants ripped off three road playoff wins.

They prevailed in high humidity in Tampa, in Dallas against Romo and the boys, who had defeated them twice during the season, and finally in the frigid cold in Green Bay to get a shot at what every NFL pro wants, the Lombardi Trophy.

While the Giants achieved the unthinkable, winning three road playoff games to reach the Super Bowl, the Patriots continued their perfection.

In the week 17 game the Patriots broke the league scoring record, while Brady and Moss set records for most touchdown passes/receptions en route to the Big Show without a single mark in the loss column.

The Bellagio in Vegas opened up odds with NE favored by 7 1/2 points. But a comparison of each position tells a different story:

QB: Brady vs. Little Manning

Since their last meeting Eli has looked a lot more like Peyton, threading passes to his receivers on the sidelines. On the contrary, Brady has been doing that the entire season with 23 TD hookups with Moss alone.

RB: Maroney vs. Thunder & Lightning

This one is a tough call; Maroney matched up against either one of NY's rushers would be a toss-up. However, with Southern Illinois grad Brandon Jacob's pure power and Ahmad Bradshaw's elusiveness is too good of a combo to ignore.

Receiving: Moss, Welker & Stallworth vs. Burress & Toomer
NE without a doubt, sweeps this category; Moss is the speedy go-to guy, Welker is the jack of all trades, and Stallworth is the secret weapon; whereas Eli has a go-to guy in Burress and an experienced veteran in Toomer (TE Jeremy Shockey is out with injury).

Offensive Line

This is another close one, Eli has gotten the needed protection throughout the playoffs, but then again Brady can stand in the pocket for at least 20 seconds before he even has to think about being sacked.

D-Line: 3 Tanks vs. Strahan & Umenyiora
Sportscenter gives the Giants

the edge but I cannot agree with this. NE's 3-4 defense is anchored by three big men who don't let guys past them. NY's line is praised for its effectiveness at getting to the QB. This is a toss-up.

LB: The Vets vs. Antonio Pierce

Does anyone have to be written here? The Pats have four of the best vets in the league, NY has two weak guys and an Urlacher-like Pierce.

Secondary: Samuel & Harrison vs. The Giants 4

Harrison is the hard hitting vet every team needs at safety and Samuel is the elite corner. But in order for NY to win, they have to be able to cover all of NE's receivers. Corey Webster, the Giant's 3rd defensive back, picked off Favre in overtime which led to their victory.

Special Teams

Giants' kicker Lawrence Tynes missed two game winning kicks under 40 yards, but nailed a 47 yarder in OT to send them to the desert, also in week 17. Domenik Hixon returned a kickoff for a TD just 14 seconds after NE scored. Talk about a momentum swing.

Final Prediction:

Patriots are perfect; Giants are the unlikely Wild Card. Bet on the Patriots, root for the Giants.

NE 31 NY 27

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SPORTS

Men's Basketball

Wolves continue to struggle at home

By Josh Green

The Joliet Junior College men's basketball team entered their Jan. 22 meeting with North Central Community College Conference opponent Harper College on a four game winning streak.

The Wolves, however, came up short in another close battle, coming in at 72-65 in Joliet.

Trey Whisby was the high scorer for the Wolves with 14 points.

William Bills added 10. The loss dropped the Wolves to 14-6, 1-1 in the N4C.

The team has struggled at home posting a 5-4 record at games played at Wills Gymnasium.

Despite their struggles at home, the Wolves have performed well on the road with a 9-2 record.

Head coach Joe Kuhn recently titled the team "the road warriors."

The Wolves showed why they are warriors with a 108-102 overtime win over Olive-Harvey College on Jan. 17.

Leading the pack was Adam Short, who scored 28 points and was almost perfect from the free-throw line making 7 of 8 free throws. Ryan Owens added 25 points.

This was a huge game for Whisby as well, scoring 21 points and grabbing 13 rebounds, a double-double.

Kuhn felt like the team's nearly perfect night at the free throw line (46-52) helped secure the victory.

The Wolves improved to 14-6 overall and 1-1 in the N4C conference.

The Wolves have another tough N4C conference opponent Rock Valley College on Feb. 2. Tip-off is scheduled for 7 p.m.



Photo By Mike DiNovo

Hang Time: Wolves' guard Lamar Williams drives to the basket against Madison Tech.

Women's Basketball

Conference play heats up

By Patrick Blaesing

The Joliet Junior College women's basketball team finds itself in the heart of conference play with a 13-7 record (1-1 conference) with 10 games remaining.

Head coach Tony Giese coached them to a critical win over Harper 69-63 on Jan. 22.

Shantel Johnson led the way for the Lady Wolves with 22 points and 20 rebounds, her second straight double-double.

Sara Guerrero scored 15 points and Stephanie Slaughter added 12 points.

The win regained momentum for the Lady Wolves after a tough loss to the College of DuPage 71-63 on Jan. 15.

Johnson recorded a double-double with 22 points and 14 points.

Katie Blocker scored 22 points, hitting seven 3-pointers.

Slaughter added 10 for the Lady Wolves. On Feb. 2, the Lady Wolves will host Rock Valley at 5:00, in what Giese believes to be one of the toughest matchups of the

season.

The following game will be against COD on Feb. 5 where the Lady Wolves will be out for revenge against their conference rival.

"We're doing excellent...a little work to do, but we're doing real good."
-Stephanie Slaughter

Slaughter said on the rivalry, "It's not that tough, but very competitive."

The Regional Tournament will match up the top seed against the fourth seed and two seed against the third seed, with

the winners facing each other to determine who advances to the Region IV Final.

Currently 1-1 in conference play, the Lady Wolves are in a must win situation against Rock Valley in order to compete for the #1 seed.

"Rock Valley is probably our toughest upcoming opponent, because they beat COD, so if we want to keep the top seed we have to beat them," Guerrero explained.

The Lady Wolves also are making some statements this season.

Early on in the season, they beat defending champ Anoka-Ramsey Community College 78-65 during a stretch that saw them win their first seven games to begin the season.

Giese and his team however are always looking forward.

When asked about the playoffs Slaughter said,

"We're doing excellent...a little work to do, but we're doing real good."

Wolves' Schedule

SATURDAY, FEB. 2
ROCK VALLEY
HOME
7 PM

TUESDAY, FEB. 5
*COD
HOME
7 PM

THURSDAY, FEB. 7
SOUTH SUBURBAN
HOME
7 PM

SATURDAY, FEB. 9
*HARPER
AWAY
3 PM

TUESDAY, FEB. 12
*WILBUR WRIGHT
AWAY
7 PM

TUESDAY, FEB. 19
*TRITON
HOME
7 PM

SATURDAY, FEB. 23
*ROCK VALLEY
AWAY
3 PM

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 27
REGION IV TOURNEY
HARPER
TBA

Lady Wolves Schedule

SATURDAY, FEB. 2
ROCK VALLEY
HOME
5 PM

TUESDAY, FEB. 5
COD
HOME
5 PM

THURSDAY, FEB. 7
SOUTH SUBURBAN
HOME
5 PM

SATURDAY, FEB. 9
HARPER COLLEGE
AWAY
1 PM

TUESDAY, FEB. 12
WILBUR WRIGHT
AWAY
5 PM

TUESDAY, FEB. 19
TRITON
HOME-PM

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the Internet**
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**Vet Tech.
Open House**
Page 8

**Musical
Moment**
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**Hoop
Dreams**
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JJC reacts to NIU deaths

By Krystal Moya

"We all want to try to make sense out of a senseless tragedy," said Betsy Oudenhoven, vice president of student development. This was the case on Feb. 14, as the usual clamor on Illinois college campuses transformed to quiet and somber reflection while the news broke that five NIU students were killed by a gunman in a 150-student lecture hall. The gunman had also taken his life after firing randomly from the stage, ultimately injuring 18 students and killing the fatal five.

Students listened still as the news coverage became more and more detailed. The names of the victims were

given, harrowing eyewitness tales broke into the usual headlines and the girlfriend of the shooter surfaced. Then, the Virginia Tech connections began to form as it was learned that both student shooters bought weapons from the same internet vendor.

JJC immediately took notice of the fear the student body would be coming back to on Friday, Feb. 15. Administration planned a banner signing, moments of silence with ominous bell tolls for each death over the P.A. system, and most importantly a memorial service for the victims of Feb. 14's tragic event.

"We have provided some opportunities this week for JJC students, faculty and staff to show support to our friends and colleagues at NIU, as well as to share our own grief and sadness at this terrible tragedy," said Oudenhoven last week.

According to Oudenhoven, JJC has also volunteered its counselors to assist the NIU community—as well as its own—and a scholarship fund has been created. The February 14 Student Scholarship Fund, in memory of the victims. It can be found on the NIU website.

JJC also held a memorial on campus, as a time to grieve and remember those that were killed in the lecture hall, Cole Hall. After an introduction by President Gena Proulx, Geoff Hall, the advisor for the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, led the ceremony with a speech on why people should not lose faith in the wake of these incidents. Catholic Campus Minister, Jim Denison, also spoke on the incidents and the valor of one victim—Daniel Parmenter, who died trying to shield his girlfriend.

Oudenhoven and the administration, along with the JJC Police Department and Chief Pete Comanda, have also made it clear that campus security is a number one priority, with emphasis on prevention.

"We cannot force a student to disclose mental health issues, or any other medical issues for that matter,"

said Comanda. "But we can use our threat assessment team and crisis prevention rules to interpret situations to actively screen troubled students."

Comanda explained that the campus has several avenues for alerting students should an incident occur: "We have Mobile Campus text messaging, our website, and a campus P.A. system."

The JJC Police Department also takes part in routine training exercises on armed shooters three to four times annually. These events help to update officers as technology grows and students change.

FOR "JJC RESPONDS" JUMP TO PAGE 4



Photo by Krystal Moya

TRIBUTE: Catholic Campus Minister Jim Denison speaks on behalf of the NIU victims at the memorial.



Photo by Krystal Moya

MEMORIAL: Jim Scrri, foreground, and Ryan Smith, JJC administrators, join in the memorial for the NIU students.

Tribute to a Culture

Black History Month comes to a close with cultural music and bazaars



Photo by Krystal Moya

AFRICAN DRUMS: The BUSA Family plays traditional African music for Black History Month.



Photo by Krystal Moya

DANCING: Student Dominique Rawls dances with the BUSA family.

OPINION

COMMENTARY

'Download corporate! Buy independent!'

Emily Dow

Here are five reasons to support local music instead of buying whatever CD ends up in the \$9.99 rack at Best Buy:

1) The America we are proud to live in is one that is built upon hard work. Trying to make it as a musician these days without being signed to a major, or majorly-notorious, label is extremely difficult that requires long hours and more than a normal share of determination.

Bands literally must sell themselves to reach fans. I spent last summer on tour selling merchandise for a band and there is nothing more degrading than begging 15-year-old girls at the mall to spend their allowance on some CD recorded by a band they have never heard of.

But, because we needed to pay for gas to get from show to show, this was how I spent the majority of our days.

The key to our success: negotiation. Nothing gets people buying stuff like a sale; dropping the price from \$12 to \$7, or even selling a CD for \$4 and two Taco-Bell dollars leaves the buyer feeling like they got a real deal. Therein lies the beauty of supporting local music: the personal touch.

2) Everybody wants to know rock stars. By supporting local artists and going to concerts at local music venues, one has the opportunity to really knock-knees with the people who might

someday be rock stars. When one sees bands play at small venues one usually has to hang out for awhile before they retreat to their vans.

In fact, most of them will probably end up working the merch table at some point or another, a perfect opportunity for you to meet them.

True elitists know that the earlier you meet somebody before they come famous, the more impressive the encounter will sound.

Really, you are probably just as likely to meet these people when having a pizza delivered to your house or getting your car washed, as these are the day jobs held by future rock-gods. But it just sounds so much cooler when you can add that you saw them in "some basement with like, 40 other people."

3) There is a local artist making your favorite kind of music right now. With the advent of such websites as MySpace and PureVolume.com, finding local artists who play the type of music you enjoy has never been easier. Any band worth their weight in Ramen noodles has their music and tour schedule posted on the world wide web.

Everybody likes music, and these days there is a genre to suit even those with the most complex of tastes. One easy way to find new bands without having to spend hours searching them out

individually is to become familiar with a few local venues and check their websites to see what bands are coming and when.

Most of these sites will have bios about upcoming artists comparing them to other bands that you might already be familiar with.

4) Supporting local venues by going to their shows is a way to support small businesses in your community. The one thing that local venue owners all have in common is a love of music.

The cost of running these places is very high. Insurance, electricity bills, and rent are enough to destroy profits, without even counting money spent on paying the bands who play there. Despite all this, tickets to shows at local venues rarely cost more than \$10.

To me, local shows were almost a religious experience when I was coming of age. These places were free-speech zones—a place for me and my friends to feel rebellious without actually getting into trouble. The money spent at local venues goes directly toward giving people, especially young people who have fewer and fewer places to hang out safely, a place to express themselves freely and be a part of the music scene.

5) Finally, but not only, supporting local music just feels good. In today's consumer-driven society we are told that our purchases are what make

us happy; unlike anything you bought from Wal-Mart, the profits from a local artist's CD go straight to the artist.

Supporting local music takes power away from those people who seek to use music only as a way to make a gigantic profit—namely the corporate music industry.

Big music corporations are just middle-men. We don't need out-of-touch record executives telling us what kind of music is cool and which CDs we should buy. More and more, it appears that Americans are becoming more aware of this fact, as plummeting CD sales might suggest.

When people make choices about the music they listen to, they use their consumer power to take money away from music big-wigs and give it back to the artists and club owners—the people doing the real work.

All in all, supporting local music doesn't mean that you have to stop listening to Fergie or jamming to the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

Small changes, like replacing one of the CD's you would normally buy with one from an unsigned artist, or simply going to a show played by a band you have never heard of, are all ways to support the future of music. After all, think of how sad a world without rock stars would be. Download corporate! Buy independent!

Letter Policy

The Blazer welcomes and encourages participation by our readers. Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters so we can verify authenticity. Letters should be 300 words or fewer. We reserve the right to edit for space and content. You may send your letter through inter-office mail, regular mail, email at blazermail@jic.edu, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office in F-1009.

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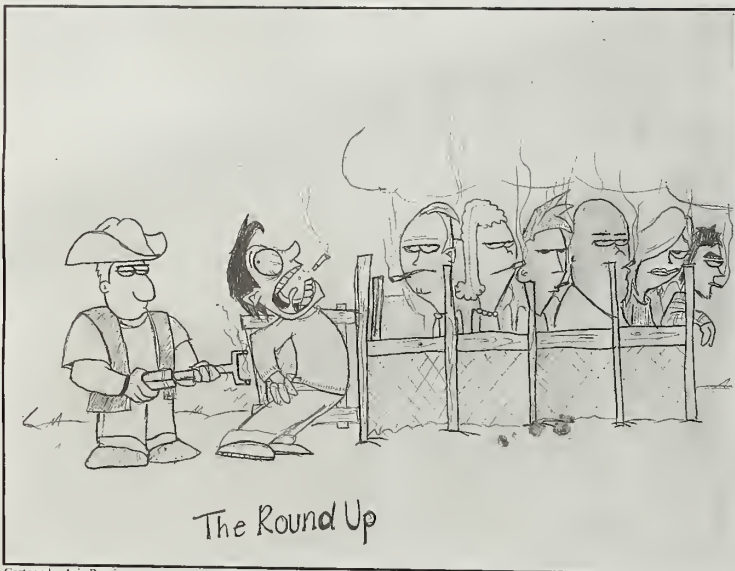
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Cartoon by Aric Ramirez

Westboro Church pickets too close to home

EDITORIAL

Westboro Baptist Church has officially crossed the line.

The Topoka, Kan.-based radical religious group founded by Fred Phelps has gotten media coverage over the past six years or so for praising the various tragedies that have plagued our country as of late—Hurricane Katrina, the Iraq War and even 9/11. All of these events, they say, are punishment by God for the United States' tolerance of homosexuality. They have been in the limelight in recent years for picketing the funerals of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. They also own the web domains godhatesamerica.com, priestsrapboys.com and americaisdoomed.com.

Their web site, godhatesfags.com, is a hate-filled site quoting scripture to support the group's argument that each significant event in the world is tied to punishment for homosexuality, hence the wrath of

God is brought down upon us. They have press releases, photos and even a picket schedule.

However, they have gone at least one step too far. Following the tragic shooting at Northern Illinois University, the WBC posted on their website a flier, proclaiming "Thank God for the shooter at Northern Illinois University. God sent the shooter in His wrath & vengeance against an ungrateful nation that has forsaken Him and embraced filthy fags."

Additionally, they picketed what they called the "hypocritical" funerals of the five victims of the shooting. As an independent newspaper, the Blazer is fully behind freedom of speech, but there is a distinct line between free speech and hate mongering. Westboro clearly crosses that line and thus we have right to criticize their practice of "free speech."

"You vilify our people, putting us on

trial for words 'protected by' free speech, whereby you throw away your greatest blessing, the First Amendment, and brought down the wrath of the Lord of hosts down upon your wicked heads," the description under the scheduled picketing of this past Sunday's memorial service at NIU.

With this statement, they prove that they are hiding behind the first amendment to spew buckets of hate around this country. They say, "God hates America," but they say that by invoking the greatest right this country has to offer.

They now seem to just bash anyone who goes against them. To them, anyone who protests them is now a supporter of homosexuality and worshiper of false idols. Either way, they use the Bible as the basis for their protests. The problem is that neither God nor Jesus wrote the Bible—man wrote the Bible. And like all

books, the open-ended words leave lots of room for interpretation with no direct explanation.

Westboro wants homosexuality to be a capital crime. You know what other country has type of law? Iran.

Westboro's members manipulate their children into blindly accepting their radical beliefs (for documentation, see YouTube videos on Westboro). Westboro is the new Ku Klux Klan, breeding hate into new generations of bigoted Americans.

How can a group who goes around saying America is damned hide behind the very foundation from which this nation is created?

The First Amendment represents the most important right every citizen of this nation has, freedom of speech, and the Westboro Baptist Church is more than just abusive—it is shredding the very fiber of that freedom.

Letters to the Editor

Green Party opposes proposed road

February 15, 2008

Letter to the Editor,

Reports of a mega development-shopping center adjacent to the Joliet Junior College campus raise a number of troubling concerns. Collectively, we respectfully request that plans be shared, and questions be addressed.

Negotiations between the City and a California developer (O & S Holdings) have been proceeding with no opportunity for input from the community. This shopping center will push development efforts further westward, away from downtown and the East Side. Is this the best use of the City's bond-making power? The City and developer would like to have an access road from I-55 that will cut across wetlands, forest preserve and likely bisect the Joliet Junior Campus. Who will pay for this road? Does the City not have other funding priorities? It is clear this would diminish the agricultural land and landscape owned by JJC. What will happen to homes along Rock Run Drive? This development and roadways will change the nature of the campus and area residents irrevocably.

Has anyone addressed the environmental impacts? Have proper permits and studies been

requested from the Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Transportation, or the Department of Natural Resources? What will be the environmental impact of the anticipated access road and the development, as they displace farmland, forest preserve, wetlands and the endangered species that survive in them?

To our dismay, the Joliet City government, even the JJC Administration and Board Leadership, prefer to keep residents in the dark about these far-reaching plans. Surely a project as large as the one planned must involve a development plan. Tell us: why hasn't a development plan been made available? When will it be? As taxpayers, we call for a shift toward transparency by leaders of Joliet and the College, so that the public has information and input on decisions that affect our lives, our roads, our environment and the community-at-large.

Respectfully,

Will County Green Party, Andrea Schaefer, Chair, 630.292.1165

Citizens Against Ruining the Environment (C.A.R.E.), Carol Stark, Director 815.838.1165

Residents of Rock Run Drive, Lynda Dowden, Representative 815.744.5357

NIU Tragedy

President responds to campus shooting

February 15, 2008

To the College Community:

At this sad time our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims of the Northern Illinois University shootings, and we wish our colleagues at NIU the strength to carry on through the difficult days that are ahead. The connections are significant between Joliet Junior College and Northern Illinois University—many of our students choose NIU as a transfer destination and many of our faculty and staff are alumni, so this particular situation hits close to home. If counseling assistance is needed, our counselors are available and can be contacted at ext. 2673.

Yesterday's events at NIU underscore the extraordinary difficulties that colleges and universities across the country face as they attempt to provide a safe and secure learning environment. I am proud to say that Joliet Junior College has an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) that is continually reviewed and updated. It serves as a manual for college staff to plan for emergencies, including situations with armed individuals on campus. The plan also includes the use of JJC sector leaders who are trained in emergency procedures, including evacuation procedures and first aid. (Learn more about our Emergency Response Plan.)

The college functions under the National Incident Management System (NIMS), which was developed so responders from different jurisdictions and disciplines can work together to respond to natural disasters and emergencies. Recently, college administrators attended a two-day NIMS training workshop and future training sessions and exercises are scheduled. In addition, the Joliet Junior College Police Department is a fully sworn, armed and authorized police department. The JJC PD is a member of the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS)—also providing mutual aid, emergency response, and combining resources for public safety. Our officers have received training on active shooter situations, lockdowns, as well as room evacuations/clearing drills.

Recently, we formed a Threat Assessment Team to provide a cross-functional, multidisciplinary point of contact for members of the college community who have encountered student behavior which they perceive as aberrant, threatening or dangerous. The team will act promptly to follow up with the individual initiating the report, determine if there have been any additional warning signs or reasons for concern (such as code violations or classroom incidents), and meet with the student to develop a plan. Learn more about the college's Threat Assessment Team.

As members of a college community, we are faced with the complex challenge of providing a learning environment that is both open and safe. It is a challenge I encourage all of you to take seriously. Please take the time to re-familiarize yourself with the college's Emergency Response Plan and other emergency procedures.

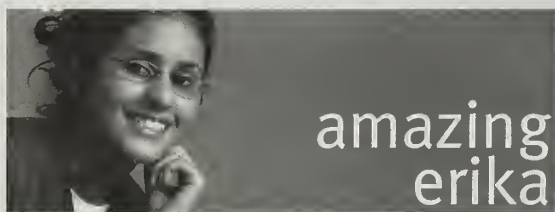
If you should have any questions and/or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Gena

Gena Proulx, Ph.D.

President

Joliet Junior College
1215 Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431-8938



Erika Corona has an amazing capacity for helping others. That's just one of the discoveries she's made as a student at Dominican University. Whether volunteering at a shelter or spending her spring break working in the inner city, Erika has learned that it takes both compassion and action to create social change. It's a lesson she'll take with her as she heads out into the world.

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NEWS

Battle of Bands set; Student Gov. seeking new members

By Nick Dombreg

JJC's Student Government has created a busy schedule for the spring semester of 2008.

One scheduled event is Battle of the Bands. The student-run organization will conduct its annual Battle of the Bands on April 4.

All bands interested must have their applications submitted by Feb. 29 in the form of a demo CD or band website. At least one member of the band must be a student of JJC.

The Student Government will narrow down the applications to five or six bands after Feb. 29, so sign up soon if you want your band to compete in the contest.

The Battle of the Bands will begin at 6:30 p.m. on April 4 in the cafeteria. Bands will be allowed a 40-minute window to set up, play their music and take down their equipment. The winners of the event will be decided by faculty

and staff judges.

Student Government is also sponsoring a scholarship raffle. The raffle, which began in 2006-07, will continue this semester, offering the winner a full ride scholarship to JJC of \$3,000.

Tickets will start going on sale at the end of February at \$5 a piece or \$20 for 5 tickets. The drawing is scheduled for mid-April when the winner will be announced.

Student Government also announced that the fundraiser campaign for Melissa Ortiz is coming to a close this semester. Ortiz and her three high-school age children lost their home in Lockport when lightning struck it during a storm last August.

The Student Government is continuing to sell Fanny May candy bars until the end of March or the beginning of April, with half of the proceeds going to Ortiz. At \$1 a pop, it is a tasty way to help ease the burden of Ortiz's ordeal.

New members are also needed

in Student Government to represent the voice of students on campus. Meetings are held on Thursdays on the bridge at 3 p.m., and all students are welcome.

Those who wish to become active in Student Government can also sit on a variety of decision-making college committees that need student input.

A great example is the Sustainability Committee that meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 3 p.m. The committee will discuss environmental issues relevant to the JJC campus.

With upcoming construction scheduled on and near the main campus buildings, it is imperative that JJC students make their voices heard on issues of wildlife preservation.

All interested students are welcome and the committee wants your feedback.

"JJC Response" from Page 1

In late December, the department shut down two floors of J-Building for a simulated armed attack.

Campus security is also in the process of attaining more security cameras and investigating the

door locks on campus, due to complaints from faculty and staff. In addition, as early as the end of this semester, students will receive campus I.D. cards, according to Comanda. All of these new security options are included in the campus' Emergency Response Plan, which can be found on the JJC website.

The ERP indicates the steps a student, faculty or staff member

would take in a variety of emergency situations, from a fire to an armed offender.

The police department and its staff remain adamant in students baving their own plan to incorporate with the ERP.

"Students and their teachers are often the first responders in these situations. It is important to be aware of your surroundings," said Comanda.

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An Angel in the house

Distance Ed program generally rated high

By Patrick Knasiak

This semester marked a new start for Distance Education as JJC converted from Blackboard to the Angel Learning Management System.

So far, great strides have been made to bring the best learning tools to the students. On Feb. 20, Angel was nominated for the Best Postsecondary Course Management Solution. CODIE Award the third year in a row. Angel won the award the previous two years during which Blackboard failed to get nomination. Director of Distance Education Chris Harvey praises Angel for the strides made towards using technology as a valuable learning tool.

"Faculty, right in Angel, can develop things like crossword puzzles and jeopardy style games that students can use for practice activities, the system also supports wikis, blogs, podcasting," Harvey said.

The additional features that Angel offers that Blackboard didn't, coupled with Angel's superior technical support, make the switch to Angel a step in the right direction, according to Harvey.

"If you were taking a timed test in Blackboard, the counter that goes up to show you how much time was left, didn't always show up," Harvey said. "So obviously if you're taking the test that's a big deal."

"We had that (support) ticket open for nine months with them, they never addressed it. They would simply tell you it's been escalated," Harvey said.

Harvey explained that the technical support for Blackboard was the biggest motivation behind the switch, and so far Angel's technical support has been phenomenal, he noted.

Harvey and distance education have set a goal of training the faculty to be able to use

everything in Angel that they used in Blackboard.

"Two weeks into the semester 85 percent of the faculty that had Blackboard courses available in the fall had Angel courses available in the spring," he said. "That was only two weeks in and we've still continued to train faculty."

So far the feedback for Angel has been relatively upbeat with repeated praise of Angel's organizational pattern.

"Blackboard asks you to think about your distance education state as a document depository, whereas Angel asks you to think about the types of tasks that you have to do and when they're done," English professor Lisa Sandoval said.

Sandoval was one of numerous JJC teachers that took part in an online survey. Another teacher who took part in the survey, speech and theatre professor Clay Kirkland, made a comment on one of the survey questions that stood out. As his comment indicates, not everyone was completely happy with the timing of the change.

"Actually, my one real complaint about the switch is that it was done between Fall and Spring semesters, when there was so little time to make the transition," Kirkland said. "Angel training for faculty did not begin until right before finals. The transition would have been much easier and smoother if it had occurred over summer."

Harvey responded with a viable answer to a question that may be lingering with some members of faculty.

"We honestly didn't have a choice. BB has an annual license. Because of the licensing the only other time we could accomplish that would be to carry blackboards license for an extra year which would have been over 100,000 dollars," Harvey said.



JJC Bookstore



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On the web at www.jjcbookstore.com
By Phone 815-280-6767

A Reminder from the JJC Bookstore - Bookstore Hours for Spring Break Week March 24 - March 28 Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

News Briefs

Listening Tours on Campus Safety

President Gena Proulx and chief of JJC Police Pete Comanda will be directing a question/answer listening tour on the bridge Feb. 27 at 1 p.m. and on the City Center Campus in the Amoco Room at 4 p.m.

Battle of the Bands Sign Up

Student Government is hosting the Battle of the Bands on April 4 and is currently taking sign ups. Bands must have at least one JJC student as a member and can play any type of music. For applications stop by the OSA office on the bridge. Deadline to apply is Feb. 29. A demo on CD, tape, or Myspace page must be included.

Awards for May 2008 Graduates

Applications are being accepted for the Student Speaker for the May 2008 Commencement Ceremony as well as the Student Service Recognition Award. The deadline for applicants is March 14. These awards are for exemplary May JJC graduates who have excelled academically as well as through service to the college and community.

Student Trustee Candidates Sought

Candidates for JJC Student Trustee are being sought to sit on the Board of Trustees for the College. Candidates must be a member of JJC's Student Government. He/She represents the student voice of the administration. Booklets detailing the information about the position are available in the OSA office. Deadline for applicants is March 17.

Pow Wow

JJC presents its 12th annual Pow Wow on March 8 from 12-9 p.m. with grand entries slated for 1-6 p.m. Activities include Native American dancing, music and market fair. Native American food will be served in the cafeteria from 12-6 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and seniors and children under six are free. For more information call Fred Harris at (815)280-2566 or e-mail at fharris@jjc.edu.

Success Stories Series feat. Bonnie Bennett

Bonnie Bennett, a former JJC student, discusses what it takes to become the lead engineering associate for Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. Lunch is provided. Located in J-0006 on the main campus. For more information call Delia Ulloa-Jimenez at (815)280-2328 or e-mail dulloa@jjc.edu.

Movies on the Bridge: Erin Brokovich

In celebration of women's history month, OSA is showing Erin Brokovich in the TV area of the bridge on March 11 from 12-2:30 p.m. Free popcorn!

Fred Winters, Hypnotist, Performs

Fred Winters returns to JJC's campus to hypnotize student volunteers on March 12 from 11:30-1 p.m. on Center Bridge.

AEC-CADD 5th Annual Career Night

The AEC department hosts a night for students to mingle with career professionals of local businesses, learn needed skills for the workforce and build outside contacts on March 12 from 5-7 p.m. in the T-Concourse. For

more information, visit <http://www.jjc.edu/Dept/Tech/AEC/CareerNight.html>.

JJC Alumni Comedy Night feat. Southern Fried Chicks Performance by CMT's

Southern Fried Chicks at 7 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres prepared by chef Kyle Richardson at 6 p.m.

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Tiffany Cuipepper
B.A. in Applied Behavioral
Sciences (ABS)

Police Blotter

1/29/08- Police received a call of a disturbance at the front of East Lot 2. There, Magdalena Martinez, Joliet, and another individual were questioned about their altercation. Police said the other individual claimed Martinez had thrown a cell phone at them and repeatedly punched the accuser, causing injury. According to police, after Martinez admitted to the assault she was charged with domestic battery and taken to the Will County Adult Detention Center.

1/31/08- A reported disturbance after an open gym that resulted in a student getting threatened has led to the canceling of open gym for the remainder of the semester, according to police. A student reported that they had been followed to Centennial Commons and a car of individuals made threatening comments. Police warned the individuals to discontinue contact directly and indirectly on and off campus with the student or action would be taken to remove them from the school.

2/4/08- An officer on patrol received a call of a domestic disturbance in the C-Building

in which the patrolling officer assisted in questioning two subjects who had gotten into a verbal altercation. Both requested orders of protection against each other and were not talking to each other. One was given a ride home from the property, the other was taken to the station and issued a notice of trespass due to prior incidents.

2/5/08- Frank Dickerson was charged with criminal trespass to state supported property when an officer noticed him in the stands of a men's basketball game. Dickerson had previously been issued a notice of trespass and after a brief conversation the officer took him to the department to process him. Dickerson was released on bond and issued a court date.

2/11/08- A complaint was issued by a subject that their car had been scratched every day since the beginning of the semester in both South Lot 1 and East Lot 2. The complaint was filed under criminal damage of property. The subject does not know who is committing the act but requested better patrolling of the parking lots.

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FEATURES

Vet Tech. opens house to the JJC community

By Brandon Daun

It was not a day of student recognition or academic rewards. There were no public performers or professional speakers. It was a day that animals became the center of attention at JJC.

The Veterinary Medical Technology program hosted a Vet Tech open house on Saturday, Feb. 16. Families and people interested in joining the Vet Tech program were invited to tour the V Building and learn about animals, animal agencies and becoming a Veterinary Technician.

A variety of animals from the Vet Tech program were at the open house as well as some animals which were available for adoption. Exotic animals were on display courtesy of private owners who lent them to the Vet Tech program. One such animal was Rex, a green iguana that suffers from Metabolic Bone Disease as a result of insufficient light or heat from when he was younger. Bob, a turtle, was also on display. He was attacked by a raccoon and has 3 injured legs.

There were countless animals on display throughout the building. People were able to interact with animals such as a rabbit, chinchilla, goat, chickens, roosters, chinchillas, dogs and cats.

In addition to interacting with animals, visitors to the open house were able to interact with members of the Vet Tech program. There were visual aids and demonstrations set up throughout the open house. In one portion of the open house,

Animal organizations were invited to the open house in order to raise public awareness.

people were invited to look at microscopes magnifying such things as ticks, whale blood, lice and tapeworms.

There were raffles at the open house, where proceeds went to benefit the Vet Tech club. The Vet Tech club works closely with the humane society and does a lot of community service work.

In addition to raising awareness of the Vet Tech program, the open house also provided an opportunity for the public to learn about a variety of animal organizations. According to Susan Ripper, the Vet Tech Facilities Manager, these organizations were invited to

the open house so that they may raise public awareness.

Organizations such as the Labrador Education and Rescue Network, the Animal Emergency and Treatment Center, The Chicago English Bulldog Rescue, and several other organizations were promoting awareness of their causes. Most organizations were promoting awareness in rescuing, adopting and caring for animals that need help.

Ripper said that there were 48 students enrolled in the Vet Tech program and that these students were all becoming involved in various organizations through internships and volunteer work. These organizations were inviting guests of the open house opportunities to become involved and help animals.

The Vet Tech open house was a successful event. Families and young children were given an opportunity to interact with the animals and learn about them.

People interested in the Vet Tech program were able to interact with current students and experience what the program has to offer.

Anyone who attended the open house learned the benefits of interacting with animals and learned about the importance of helping animals find healthy, suitable homes.



Photo by Brandon Daun

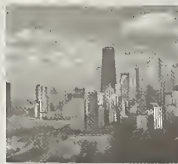
A CLOSER LOOK: Visitors to the Vet Tech open house check out the sights through laboratory microscopes. The event took place Feb. 16.



Photo by Brandon Daun

CHECK THAT OUT, MARGE: A couple visitors to the Vet Tech open house check out the proceedings.

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Wordeater celebrates 118th issue with readings

By Petrick Knaasiak

Half of the bridge felt like a café, complete with coffee, vegetarian sandwiches, art, music and poetry readings, in celebration of the Word eater's 118th issue on Jan. 30.

Adam Heidenreich, the faculty adviser for the Word eater, opened the night by explaining that the next issue of the Word eater would be an Ezine.

He said it would be the same as the regular Word eater except that it would be combined with "anything that they get." Video, music, spoken word and others will be considered along with regular poetry, short stories, and art of all forms.

Heidenreich urges submissions, as the Ezine allows for more versatility and "the ability to take more entries."

After hearing students and Heidenreich read poetry and

short stories from the Word eater, awards were given to students who had been voted upon by jurors in the English/world language department. This particular occasion was special because the first awards of visual arts were given out.

Then the stage opened for anyone to read anything. Students walking by took advantage of the open stage to try out new material, along with audience members taking advantage of the same opportunity.

From traditional poems to freestyle poems, the audience participation was significant.

The event was supposed to have ended at 6:30, but the stage was not clear until 7 p.m.

The new Word eater issue will come out on April 29 for Poetry Month. When that happens, a similar event is scheduled to be held on the bridge at 2 p.m.



Photo by Alissa Pagels

GIVING SNAPS: The bridge was hopping as the 118th Word eater hit the stands on Jan. 30. Visitors were treated to musical performances, poetry readings, hot soup and baked goods.

ROTC program unique to JJC

By Nicole Zwart

Are you not sure what to major in? Do you look for more opportunity within your major? Beginning last fall, Lewis University merged a two-year ROTC program with JJC for students striving to succeed. This cohort program is an officer training program that introduces students to military life and lifestyle.

Professor Jon Laratta, a natural science professor who arranged the program, believes it is not for everyone, but it's another great tool for success.

"This program is unique," said Laratta, "and only a handful of two-year colleges in the U.S. have this opportunity available."

There are academic, physical and maturity requirements to be

eligible for the program. The cost is \$100 per student, which includes the uniform and any other necessities involved in ROTC. The course meets every Thursday night for about four or five hours, and occasionally in the afternoon on Saturdays for lab hours.

"It took a kid like me from the south side," Laratta said, based on personal experience with ROTC, "and gave me direction, focus and motivation."

ROTC has a remarkable scholarship opportunity for students, especially for nursing majors. After the two-year program at JJC is accomplished, students are able to go through the program as a third-year student, and may receive benefits and promising scholarships. The greater

demand within your major will increase the amount of scholarship money.

"Most importantly, there is no service commitment for the first 2 years," said Laratta. "If you do not like the Army life, you just walk away."

However, if you take a scholarship, there is a military commitment.

Another major bonus is that National Guardsmen and Reservists, who attend college and are active in an ROTC program, are exempt from being deployed to Iraq.

If you are interested in the ROTC program or have questions about it, you can contact Laratta at (815) 280-6600, jlara@jjc.edu, or Lewis University at www.lewisu.edu.



Photo by Alissa Pagels

COFFEE HOUSE: Jams Sevan Loughran performs at the launch party.

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ENTERTAINMENT

ZAHN TALKS "STRANGE"

Comedic actor gives insight to his on-screen choices *Rescue Dawn* and nature farce *Strange Wilderness*

By Matt Sheehan

Comic actor Steve Zahn has had a varied career in the goofball films he's starred in. He broke out in Tom Hanks' "That Thing You Do!" and Steven Soderbergh's "Out of Sight," became an indie film star in "Happy, Texas" and done voice work in the animated features "Chicken Little" and "Stuart Little."

This past summer he ventured into new territory: drama. In "Rescue Dawn," Zahn appeared alongside Christian Bale as Vietnam War POWs that garnered him critical acclaim.

However, Zahn returned to his roots in the comedy "Strange Wilderness." In the film, Zahn plays the son of a famed TV animal adventure show that decides he and his crew should go looking for Bigfoot to get them noticed.

On Jan. 25, Zahn took part in a conference call for college publications and broadcast outlets across the country.

Zahn first heard about the film while filming "Dawn" in

Thailand.

"I did this kayaking trip up in Ha Long Bay, which is up near China, and my agents are trying to get a hold of me," he said. "I got back to Hanoi, and he called me, and said, 'Hey, you got this offer on this script and it's crazy.' So I was in my room at the Hanoi Hilton, and I read this script. And I laughed so hard when I read it."

Zahn also was taken back by who one of his co-stars would be: Ernest Borgnine.

"I couldn't believe it," Zahn said. "I said, 'Wait, Ernest Borgnine, like he's the 'Wild Bunch,' Borgnine?'"

Reasons for Borgine's joining the film seemed to be even stranger to Zahn.

"He thought it was really funny," Zahn said. "He totally got every bit, every pause, every, which I thought was just remarkable. It was a thrill for me to work with him."

Asking the film's comedic star are the co-stars in the film Justin Long and Jonah Hill. Zahn appreciated their talent on

this film because of their great improvisation.

"This one, the script was so funny on the page that it actually encouraged even better stuff," he said. "And then Jonah, Justin and all those guys coming in—those guys made me laugh so hard. All that stuff Jonah did; everything he came up with was just genius."

On the surface, Zahn appears to be playing against his regular, goofball type. Instead, Long and Hill are the wild sidekicks. Zahn agrees he's the comic "straight man"...sort of.

"It comes off like that; I'm just the most sane, but he's still like a complete idiot," Zahn said. "He's the through line. He's the story. He's the one that makes all the stupid decisions. He's just definitely not straight. He's just straighter, I guess."

When "Rescue Dawn" was released, several whispers spread among critics of a possible Oscar nomination. Unfortunately, Zahn was looked over and did not receive a nod. His reaction?

"Whatever."



Photo courtesy of Paramount Pictures
OUT OF THE WOODS: *Strange Wilderness* hit local theatres on Feb. 1.

Art Gallery gets interactive update

By Nick Doniberg

Computer screens replaced the traditional canvases and sculpture displays in the Laura A. Sprague Art Gallery from Jan. 22 to Feb. 15 when the Video and Audio Show went on display. The first exhibit at JJC of its kind provided an interactive media experience for who entered.

The interactive experience was all headed by Graphic Design instructor Scott Johnson. The exhibit allowed visitors to cross the line from observer to participant in the mix of generative, interactive and performance based media.

Of the nine displays, six were Johnson's own creations. Other displays were created by guest artists: Chris Lackey, Chris Tice and Jane Dowe. The controllers used to manipulate video and audio feed were familiar to most—from joysticks to Dance Dance Revolution pads. The goal of the displays was to create an engaging and fun exhibit to tool around with.

Johnson created one of the displays, aptly named "Joy Stick," which utilized a camera, computer screen and joystick resembling a jet fighter controller. The computer screen shows a real time video feed back from the camera of the participant, which can be

distorted with every button and movement of the joystick.

Another display created by Johnson included a piano keyboard that controlled the footage of the fateful flight of the Hindenburg and other video clips called "Keyboard Through Time," all displayed in black and white or red-tinted footage.

Johnson also created "Small Steps and Giant Leaps," which changed photos on a screen while a participant danced on the pad; "You're All the Buzz," which made bees fly away with the straws of a Guitar Hero controller; "Where Did All the Time Go?"; which used a PlayStation controller to change to and from old video game clips; and "Acts of Randomness," which distorted video with the use of computer pen and pad.

James created "Digital Imagery," which involved computer animated geometric lines and shapes often compared to a screensaver. Tice developed "Erasure," which was a still of Evil Knievel in mid-motorcycle jump. Dowe's "Kool Kitch (Funky) Redux" was a generative video of a live performance.

Word on the next exhibit is unknown after several attempts to contact Gallery Director Joe Milosevich failed.



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Musical Moment

JJC pencils in 'How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying'

By Shawn Faust

Have you ever wondered how you could work your way from the lowest position of a company to the very top in a short amount of time and with little effort?

Well JJC's musical production *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* can help to answer that question.

Directed by Zach Bloomfield with musical direction by Sue Malmberg, performances will begin Thursday, February 28 at 7:30 p.m. with repeat performances on Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and a matinee performance on Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

Ticket prices range from \$8.00 to the general public, \$5.00 for JJC staff, and \$3.00 for JJC students and faculty members.

According to director Bloomfield, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* is a spoof on Shepherd Mead's 1952 book of the same title, but it is also a satire on the corporate world and being set in the 1960's it is a critique on 60's values.

The set itself can best be described as a "cartoon" version of the sixties with a modern day influence with respect to color and costume.

According to Bloomfield this was done to show how some of the values the musical satirizes still exist today and to show that the musical "has not lost its ability to help us laugh at ourselves." *How*



Photo by Krystal Moya

DOING BUSINESS: Leads Kristin Josh Carlson and Kristin Rhoder get intimate on stage as *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*'s love story. The production opens Thursday, Feb. 28, at 7:30 p.m.

to *Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* first opened on Broadway in 1961 and since then it has ran for over fourteen hundred performances, received seven Tony awards, and won the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 1962.

The story of the musical is of how a lowly window washer, J. Pierpont Finch, played by Josh Carlson, finds a book that teaches him not how to be a better worker but rather how to backstab and manipulate his way to the top of the company.

The story also promises a love interest between Finch and a secretary, Rosemary, a lead played by Kristin Rhoder, sex

appeal and harassment on the part of Elmore Lape's lead character, Hedy LaRue, and office nepotism due to lead performances by Elce Schroek, who plays Smitty, and James Jagos who plays Bud Frump.

There is even a heated rivalry between the main character Finch and a fellow window washer J.B. Biggley, a lead played by Mark Frost. Besides having control over set design, costuming and staging director Bloomfield feels that he and Malmberg have "put people in positions that really shows their talent."

In fact, he adds, "The actors are really beginning to create their

own characters." Lape who has been in theatre for 15 years, which includes lead roles in *The Sound of Music*, *Once Upon a Mattress* and a performance in JJC's *Bye Bye Birdie*, agrees, "This is one of the first productions I've been in where I feel like I'm truly the role."

Yet much of the musical aspect of the production has relied on the ears and direction of the retiring Sue Malmberg.

Malmberg is a Professor of Music and Music Coordinator at JJC and received the degree of Master of Music in Piano Performance from the University of Illinois.

Besides being actively involved as a Musical Theater Director in the Chicago area and a featured pianist in the six-volume piano vocal series Musical Theater Classics, published by Hal Leonard, she has also studied piano with Robert Larsen, Joel Shapiro, and Donald Walker and performed throughout the states of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Tennessee.

Malmberg has been involved in over 20 productions at JJC including *Guys and Dolls*, a production done with Bloomfield by the same writers of *How to Succeed in Business*.

Malmberg has worked with choreographer Zoe Kohlmeier, a graduate from North Central College, the ensemble composed of music students and each singer individually to help bring the musical together.

Malmberg says, "We got guys dancing I thought would never dance."

Carlson, who has only been in a few productions, including JJC's *Fortinbras*, and the *Runner Stumbles*, in which he played the lawyer, agrees that the show is coming together, "As someone who has been involved in theater casually, I am amazed at the talent. It feels as if the whole show is alive."

Malmberg will also be playing piano during the musical and this will be her last production at JJC before she retires.

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Men's Baseball

Wolves anticipating a successful 2008 season

By Jake Widlowski

The JJC men's baseball team has a lot to live up to in 2008. 2007 was a very successful season for JJC, and head coach Wayne King. The Wolves won 47 games, had six all-conference players, and finished the season as the national runner-up. However, the Wolves have lost 5 of the 6 all-conference players, and are returning only 11 wins from last year's pitching staff.

The team will start the season with a road trip that includes schools from Tennessee and Kentucky, a stretch that will see the Wolves play 11 games in six days. King likes the early challenge.

"Those early games are a good way to see who can do what. The freshmen have practiced all fall, but now they have to come out and play in the real games. So it will be interesting," he said.

The Wolves pitching staff is a very young and inexperienced group. There are only three pitchers returning from last year's team. King believes his young pitchers will play a huge role in the success of the team.

"Our freshman pitchers have got to step up this year. They're going to have gain experience early in the year, and hopefully gain confidence and be ready for the rest of the season," he said.

Some of the freshman pitchers that will have an influence this season include Zack Griertych, Jake Bowman, Ryan Bethard, Brian Shirey, Kevin Barnett, and closer Steve Sytek.

JJC also returns some key defensive players from last year's team. Catchers Casey Colbert and Chris Vidmar, 2nd team All-American shortstop Ed Koneel, pitchers Joe Colbert and Dillon Roark, third baseman Ryan Voitik, center fielder T.J. Stanfield, outfielders Brandon Howard, Shaun Thomas, Alex McCluskey and Joe Maggio are all returning for the Wolves.

One of the keys to success this season for JJC will be its offense. With a young pitching staff, the offense will play an important role in taking the pressure off its pitchers. Also a quality defense will play a large role in the success of the team.

The Wolves are the defending N4C conference champions. However, there are teams in the conference that will surely challenge them for the championship this season.

King knows the quality of the competition he will be up against. "DuPage and Waubesa will give us all we can handle this season. Those are two teams that will threaten us the most for the regional championship."

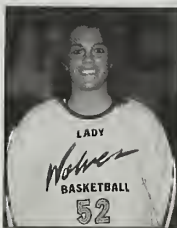
ATHLETES OF THE ISSUE

By Jim Sheldon

Bills pushes Wolves to victory

William Bills scored a season-high 24 points in a 79-77 win over N4C conference opponent Triton College on Feb. 19.

Bills also scored 14 points, including a 3-pointer with 2.7 seconds left to force overtime, in the Wolves 101-93 double overtime win over N4C Conference opponent Wilbur Wright College on Feb. 12.



Benjamin notches her sixth straight double-double

Martha Benjamin scored a career-high 34 points and pulled down 26 rebounds, her sixth straight double-double, in an 85-76 win over N4C conference opponent Triton College on Feb. 19.

Benjamin also had a double-double against N4C conference opponent Wilbur Wright College on Feb. 12. She scored 19 points and pulled down 16 rebounds in an 89-75 win.

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Women's softball team prepares for 2008 season

Lady Wolves look to avenge loss to DuPage in 2007 Region IV tie breaker

By Adam Fox

The 2007 Joliet Junior College softball season did not end as the Lady Wolves had hoped. The season ended with a loss to the College of DuPage in a one game Region IV tie breaker.

This season the Lady Wolves goals are even larger. "Each and every year to get to Nationals obviously, each game we want to play to the best of our capabilities," said head Coach Emily Marino.

Last season Marino led JJC to a 21-27 record overall. She got her team this far with the hitting of sophomores Lyndsi Gocken and Nichole Salazar, and behind the pitching of Rebecca Lefler.

Gocken was the eighth best hitter in Division III softball last year batting .505 with 9 home runs and 52 RBIs. She was also the Diamond Sports Catcher of the Year, a Louisville Slugger All-American, and a NJCAA Division III 2nd team All-American.

This year however there are only five players left from the 2007 squad and Gocken is not one of them.

So the pressure is on the freshmen to contribute right away, especially on catcher Val Karas who will be replacing Gocken behind the plate. "I think I can do it, I just have to get in my own routine and do things my

way. I can't follow her, I got to be my own person," said Karas.

Karas, along with fellow freshmen third baseman Sarah Kessler and pitcher Erika Rodriguez, are expected to contribute right away for the Lady Wolves. Marino even went as far as to say that she was expecting Kessler to be a key contributor both defensively and at the plate.

"The pressure is always going to be there that's all. It's what you got to deal with. Being a catcher puts you in control on the field," said Karas.

The coaching staff is hoping that Rodriguez and North Central College transfer Kate Votta will eat up the bulk of the innings for the team. Both Votta and Rodriguez will have the challenge of living up to Lefler's effort from 2007. Lefler was 17-17 with a 4.91 ERA in 199.2 innings.

For the Lady Wolves, the first time they get to have their long awaited rematch with COD, is April 3.

In order to get to regionals they will have to be able to defeat COD. They are the team to beat according to the coaching staff. Salazar even went as far as to proclaim, "We are going to beat them this year."

If confidence could produce wins, then this year's softball team would go undefeated.

SPORTS

Wolves win N4C Crown



Photo by Mike DiNovo

CONCENTRATION: Wolves guard Ryan Owens looks past the defender and tries to score against Triton.

Women's Basketball

Wolves secure No. 1 seed

By Patrick Blasieing

The Lady Wolves ended the regular season with a 66-62 loss to Rock Valley Community College on Feb. 23 in Rockford.

Martha Benjamin led the way with her seventh straight double-double, scoring 22 points and grabbing 19 rebounds. Katie Blocker scored 13 points and Telysia Adams had 11 points and four assists for the Lady Wolves who fell to 20-10 overall and 7-3 in the N4C Conference.

Head coach Tony Giese has coached the team into prime position for the Region IV Tournament which starts on Feb. 28 at Harper College, securing the number one seed. But the Rock Valley game was a key matchup, as one player recently noted.

"Rock Valley is probably our toughest upcoming opponent, because they beat College of DuPage, so if we want to keep the top seed we have to beat

them," guard Sarai Guerrero said recently.

COD is another key matchup for the Lady Wolves.

When COD and JUC first met towards the start of this semester COD won by a score of 71-63. The second meeting between the two teams turned out differently. The Lady Wolves exacted their revenge with a 70-69 win on Feb. 5.

In that game Blocker and Benjamin led the team in scoring with 21 points a piece, with all of Blocker's points coming from beyond the arc. Also, Benjamin's 16 rebounds were crucial in the contest. Sophomore Shantel Johnson was also effective with 15 points and 13 boards.

"Our team stepped up once again. DuPage tried to isolate Shantel, but Martha and Katie did a great job. It seems someone different is beginning to step up night after night," Giese said.

The Lady Wolves first faced Rock Valley in front of the home crowd on Feb. 2 and came away victorious in an 80-70 win. Johnson was only two steals short of a triple-double, racking up 28 points, 13 rebounds and eight steals.

Chelsea Crawford and Adams both scored 14 points, while Benjamin recorded a double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds.

The Lady Wolves have momentum on their side as they enter tournament play. In the last 10 games, they are 7-3 with conference wins over Harper, Wilbur Wright, Triton, Rock Valley and COD.

The one conference defeat during that stretch came on Feb. 9 in a 64-61 loss to Harper, whom the Lady Wolves had already defeated just two weeks earlier by a score of 69-63.

Series of victories propel men to conference title

By Josh Green

The Wolves clinched the conference championship with an 88-82 win over Rock Valley Community College on Feb. 23 in Rockford. Tercy Whisby led the way for the Wolves with 23 points and 12 rebounds, a double-double.

Ryan Owens scored 19 points and had seven rebounds and Adam Short and Lamar Williams each had 12 points for the Wolves who finished the regular season with a 22-8 record overall and a 8-2 record in the N4C Conference. The Wolves have won 20 or more games five of the last six years.

The Joliet Junior College men's basketball team have proven to be fierce competitors in the N4C conference lately. The Wolves have defeated many conference foes in recent games including Rock Valley, Harper, Wilbur Wright, and Triton College. The Wolves' N4C record stands at an impressive 7-2.

The Wolves earned a non-conference win over Truman College on Feb. 21, 106-68. Owens led the Wolves with 19 points. J.D. Fabian added 16 points and Whisby added 12 points and 10 rebounds.

The Wolves defeated N4C conference opponent Triton College, in a close battle, 79-77 on Feb. 19 in Joliet. William Bills led the team with 24 points, and Short was right behind him with 17 points in the game.

Head coach Joe Kuhn realizes that the momentum has swung in the Wolves direction for the remainder of the season going into the playoffs.

"We have a nice momentum going into the final stretch of the schedule before playoffs."

-Coach Joe Kuhn

"This was a nice win," Kuhn said referring to the win over Triton. "We have a nice momentum going into the final stretch of the schedule before playoffs."

When playing Wilbur Wright College on Feb. 12, JUC left everything they had on the court and came away with a 101-93 double overtime win in Chicago.

Bills put up a 3-pointer with 2.7 seconds left in regulation to send the game into overtime. Then, amazingly with only 5.1 seconds left on the clock in overtime, Short hit a 3-pointer to force the game into a second overtime.

The Wolves began building up a strong lead in the second overtime with the help of Whisby, who finished with 18 points and 13 rebounds to pull away from Wilbur Wright. Short led all scorers with 26 points.

After the tremendous overtime victory, Kuhn stated once again that they know exactly how to win games on the road in tough opposing environments.

The Wolves finished the regular season with a 12-2 record on the road.

The Wolves will be in action Feb. 28 in the Region IV Tournament which is taking place at Harper College.



Photo by Mike DiNovo

DETERMINATION: Lady Wolves guard Telysia Adams fights for possession of the ball against Triton.

BLAZER

Joliet Junior College

MARCH 12, 2008

VOLUME 80

ISSUE 8

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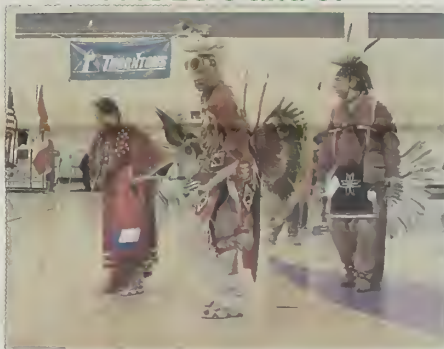


POW WOW 2008

Native Americans danced and chanted across the gymnasium floor at JJC on Saturday, March 9.

To experience the event turn to

PAGES 8 and 9.



JJC students made aware of Darfur

Genocide the subject of weeklong educational series at main campus

By Nick Dornberg

The situation in Darfur, Sudan, inside Africa has been violently desperate since the first reports of genocide in 2003. Since then, 450,000 have been killed or have died as a result of the Sudanese government's raids on African villages.

Imagine the population of Joliet; now triple it. That's how many have died already.

The neighboring country of Chad now holds 2.5 to 3 million refugees living in squalor inside massive refugee camps. The number of rape and mutilation victims is unknown and nearly uncountable. These are the facts that no one likes to hear. It is a genocide that has gone unhindered since 2003 and continues today.

On the week of Feb. 25, students at JJC organized what they called "Darfur Awareness Week." The week-long event was the brainchild of student Brian Rudisel of the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship Club. The Christian club as well as the

GLOW (Gay Lesbian or Whatever) club participated, but many students rallied to the cause with no club affiliation. In the end, it was a JJC collective event.

When Rudisel came across a documentary called "The Devil Rides on Horseback," it opened his eyes to the true horror of the Darfur genocide and inspired him to raise awareness in others. The name of the film refers to the Arab African groups that terrorize Sudanese black African communities. The Janjaweed, as they are known, are supported by the official Sudanese leadership and ride on horseback into the communities they destroy.

The week started with guest speakers and group discussion among students and faculty on the bridge. On Wednesday, Feb. 27, at 11 a.m., there was a viewing of the documentary, "Devil Came On Horseback" where some students were brought to tears at the immensity of suffering in Darfur.

Feb. 28 was the "Take Action Day" in which students were urged to participate in writing to local government representatives, namely Congressman Jerry Weller. The letter campaign asked for support from our elected officials to end the genocide.

Fundraisers, including selling baked goods, also raised money to be sent to the refugee camps in Chad. The fundraiser went well, though Rudisel stressed that the fundraiser was secondary.

"It's not that people donate a dollar, it's what they gain in awareness," Rudisel said.

Student reaction to the week's events was positive and some ignorance was traded in for knowledge. After the awareness campaign, many were wealthy with information and a desire to help out.

Many students like Zach Balousek said they had learned much from the events. Until he participated on the bridge,

Ballousek admitted he "wasn't sure why it was happening or what we're doing about it." He, as well as many other students, wrote to a local representative in response to what he learned.

If you missed the chance to become involved in the Darfur Awareness Week and want to do your part, there is much that can be done by the individual.

The money raised going to refugee camps has been given to an organization called Global Grassroots (globalgrassroots.org). Another great resource for information concerning Darfur and what you can do is the Save Darfur Organization at savadarfur.org.

To contact your local representatives by e-mail, go to https://forms.house.gov/hibin/wrep_findrep.

To write a letter, the Washington, D.C., address is: 108 Cannon, Washington, D.C., 20515 or the local district office address is 2701 Black Road., Suite 201, Joliet, Ill. 60435

OPINION

A MONTH IS NOT ENOUGH

EDITORIAL

As we are bombarded with commemorative holidays such as President's Day and Arbor Day, dedications to deities, saints and prophets, we often forget the most important commemorations of all—the months dedicated to the veiled history of our population.

March is Women's History Month and February is Black History Month, both of which serve as a valuable reconnection to the history of more than half of the world's population, somehow written out of the history books by convenience.

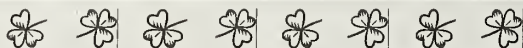
The traditional timeline of American history tends to avoid these apparently "unimportant" groups and cultures, leaving the minds of students shaped by outdated and incomplete depictions of the past. The classroom is manipulated still to include only a chapter or two in most books on the history of women and the black minority.

How many can explain the impact of Mother Theresa, the genius of Madame Curry or the history of the first female presidential contender to remain throughout the primaries, and how many more know the same about the founding fathers? How many can quote the "I Have a Dream" speech as they can the preamble?

As we grow in this world and continue to expand our reaches to the unknown, it is imperative that we continue to expand into the *known* as well. The ignorance of the multitudes of culture and an entire gender is what should be considered "taboo."

The *Blazer* challenges JJC student's to study the taboo, the unmentioned and the shunned. A valid part of history is missing in the classroom, and it is time we dedicated more than a month to the histories of our people.

Commentary



I'm sober and safe on St. Patrick's Day

Brandon Daun

I sit here at my computer staring at a blinking cursor and a blank page. My deadline is rapidly approaching and I have so many ideas swarming in my mind I cannot possibly decide what to write about. My cell phone rings and the silence is broken, and realize I have a suitable subject for this column.

Saint Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. He was a man that was forced into slavery at the age of 16. He escaped this fate and became a missionary. It is believed he passed away on March 17, and today we celebrate that day as Saint Patrick's Day.

But it is a day to celebrate the patron saint of Ireland? Or do many view this as a day to drink and party. Unfortunately

it seems as if this day is more of a celebration of alcohol than of Saint Patrick. It is a day when bars are filled with people and the streets are filled with police assigned to monitor traffic.

This is the time of year that is especially important for college students to keep a level head. It has been suggested that small doses of alcohol can be heart-healthy. However, in large doses alcohol can be very damaging. Vital organs such as the liver and brain are inflicted. Judgment is impaired and mistakes are made when large quantities of alcohol are consumed. And no one may feel the desire to binge drink on the Irish holiday more than college students.

Many students may be

celebrating this Saint Patrick Day for the first time since turning 21. Some students may feel peer pressure to go out with friends and drink. Others may just need a break from the stresses of daily life and will use Saint Patrick's Day as an opportunity to unwind. Regardless of the reasons Saint Patrick Day will be a day for alcohol consumption and "good times".

However, any short term pleasure may be accompanied by long term consequences. Impaired judgment, drunk driving, assault, date rape and countless other consequences occur as a result of intoxication. Also, physical ailments and negative effects on academic life must be taken into consideration before the bar tabs

are run up.

While some feel partying and drinking to intoxication may be fun and entertaining, that morning after may be filled with regret and remorse. There are limitless possibilities when alcohol is consumed on such levels. Friendships or relationships may meet an untimely end or lives may even be lost as a result of a single night of intense alcohol consumption.

So on March 17, before the beer begins to flow, remember to take a few things into account. Remember that lives can be changed in an instant. For every action there must be a reaction, and a decision made while intoxicated has the potential to ruin lives.

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Letter Policy

The *Blazer* welcomes and encourages participation by our readers. Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters so we can verify authenticity. Letters should be 300 words or fewer. We reserve the right to edit for space and content. You may send your letter through inter-office mail, regular mail, email at blazermail@jjc.edu, or by dropping them off at the *Blazer* office in F-1009.

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OH MY!

If you are interested in joining the *Blazer* team please e-mail blazermail@jjc.edu



Workshops for the career bound



The Joliet Junior College Workforce Development is offering a number of services for JJC students who are unemployed, underemployed or who are looking to improve their networking and job-hunting skills.

The services are provided to JJC students at the college's City Center, at 214 N. Ottawa St.

Services provided by JJC Workforce Development include the following:

Career Assessment

Every Tuesday, 4:30-7:30 p.m., this service is offered to help students determine how and where to focus their job search.

Resume Writing

First Thursday of every month, 9-11 a.m.

This workshop is designed to teach students how to make a strong first impression with an employer with a professional resume and a strong cover letter.

Interviewing Skills

Second Thursday of every month, 9-11 a.m.

This workshop teaches job hunters how to conduct themselves in an interview to best market their skills.

Internet Job Search

Third Thursday of every month,

9-11 a.m.

During this workshop the job hunter will visit various online job search websites, post a resume in several databases and visit company websites to review and apply for current postings.

Networking 101

Fourth Thursday of every month, 9-10 a.m.

Networking has become an important part of the job search. Effective networking will greatly increase your job search success. Studies show that 80 percent of jobs are found through this method of job search alone. This program is designed to teach the job searcher what networking is and how to go about using this valuable tool in a quest for employment.

Career Research

Fourth Thursday of every month, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

This session is designed to help the job hunter explore various occupations to find critical information such as projected job growth, average earnings and education and training levels needed.

Space is limited for the workshops and sessions. To register, call 815-280-1500.



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NEWS

Master Plan

JJC's progress delayed by city's indecision

By Krystal Moya

The Master Plan Steering Committee met Tuesday, March 11, to continue development on the five-year facelift for JJC.

However, timelines conflicted with the push to move forward and approve the plan, delayed by the city of Joliet, which remains undecided about the impending highway connection's construction between I-80 and I-55.

The goal of the Master Plan is to "provide a rational and orderly plan to address existing concerns, respond to existing needs and accommodate future needs throughout the JJC District," according to the Steering Committee's Executive Summary.

"In order to help accomplish the College's Vision, Mission, Core Values and Strategic Plan, additional structures and other improvements to its existing physical resources are being proposed."

The lifestyle development of a mega-shopping complex and residential stretch that is in conjunction with the road, Bridge Street Town Center, has been the

backbone of the design of the new Master Plan, being that this complex will aid in funding the dramatic structural changes to JJC's campuses.

"Currently, funds are not available for the construction of the new buildings or renovating existing spaces," said David Agazzi in the most frequently asked questions for the Master Plan.

The Master Plan must be updated every five years as required by the Illinois Community College Board. The current plan began work in 2006, and was scheduled for vote of approval on February 19 of this year, according to past interviews with President Gena Proulx.

The road, which was presented to the college shortly before the Master Plan Steering Committee began meeting, was approximated to be decided on just before the Master Plan in mid-January.

According to the studies of the Master Plan Steering Committee, the road should approximate a large percent of the funds for the campus through outward growth in the area and an increase in enrollment. These funds will be

prioritized by student need for order of construction.

The plan originally moved to reconstruct a new main campus entrance along the C-F concourse that would rely on the traffic of the new highway connection.

The new entrance would serve as the student center with a new cafeteria, bookstore, counseling offices, financial aid office and admissions office.

Because the road would run almost parallel to Centennial Circle, Legat Architects have designed the new plan to coordinate with the growth the road will bring toward the back of campus.

Concerns over the impending highway have been a theme since last fall semester. Complaints have been filed in the "Likes and Dislikes" survey compiled by the Steering Committee over the course of the fall semester to December 2007.

Hours of disruptive traffic only yards away from the campus classrooms and construction through the school's natural grassland habitat are the top complaints for the road's integration.

"I don't think that the highway will be a concern for the campus once it is fully established. The traffic really won't inhibit anything," said Police Chief Pete Comanda. "It definitely shouldn't impact the safety of the school."

Other developments the plan includes in consideration of growth are the creation of an additional 500 parking spaces; the expansion of E-building to include eight more laboratories; the partnering with the YMCA to develop a mega-complex for athletics and health; and the creation of a new childcare facility.

There will also be the construction of a new outdoor bridge connecting the T-building to the J-building and the intention of using the old cafeteria as a state-of-the-art culinary arts center.

However, the plan is "comprehensive and includes all JJC educational sites," according to Agazzi's frequently asked questions.

So, JJC and Legat also plan to incorporate new structural finishes to North Campus, City Center and Grundy County Center in both academia and physicalities. One

such development for growth would be the changing of the entire North Campus to a building entirely devoted to nursing and allied-health.

According to the "Likes and Dislikes" survey, this development was the most negatively reviewed with 29 dislike comments out of 63.

One read, "North Campus should not be turned into an Allied Health Center. There are too many people living in the area that are not interested in being a part of Allied Health. North Campus serves many area people looking for a college education. It would be an injustice to take away the current services of North Campus."

The Grundy County Center will also grow with additional classrooms to aid the surrounding community. The plan also proposes another satellite campus for the areas of New Lenox, Mokena, Peotone, Manhattan and Elwood which has the least access to the JJC campus because of distance.

Steering Committee meetings continue as scheduled until the city presents its road proposition.

Consensus Master Plan Updated 1-30-08 - 5 Year Plan

5-Year Master Plan

1. Campus Center
2. Relocate Great Houses
3. Move Outdoor Horticulture Labs to Moulton Road
4. Science - Expansion of T-Building
5. PE / Athletics / Health
 - Relocate Tennis Courts
 - New Football / Soccer Field
 - New Practice Field
6. Expansion of Automotive
7. Facilities Services
 - (Eliminate Temporaries)
8. Boiler plant addition
9. Nursing / Allied Health
10. Building C
 - 1. Building J - Renovate / Expand
 - Culinary, B classrooms (renovated)
 - Moving to J and Art Gallery
12. Develop Landscapes / Grounds
 - Update Bike and Natural Paths
 - Beaches, Rest Areas, widening road, Centennial Drive and parking development
13. H-Building Renovation



Parking = 4,890 spaces

LEGAT ARCHITECTS

News Briefs

Student Cap and Gown Measurement

Thursday, March 13, on the Main Campus at 12 to 6 p.m. on the south end of the bridge or Friday, March 14, from 1 to 2 p.m. in the cafeteria, students can get themselves measured for their graduation cap and gowns.

Three on Three Tournament

Students and staff are invited to participate in a Three on Three Basketball Tournament to be held on March 12th from 8:00-10:00 p.m. in the Gym. Teams of three will sign up at the time of the event. Prizes will be awarded to the first and second place teams. For more information contact

Emily Marino at emmarino@jic.edu.

Annual Women's Empowerment Conference

March is Women's History Month. On Friday, March 14, the JIC Women's College will hold the 11th Annual Empowerment Conference on the Main Campus, beginning with an 8:30 a.m. continental breakfast. Registration is necessary to attend the luncheon. To register or for more information, contact

Pam Condon at (815) 280-2626 or pcondon@jic.edu.

2nd Annual Gospel Choir Concert

Friday, March 14, at 7 p.m., in the cafeteria, Virginia Bouie and Tawanna Hughes host the Second Annual Gospel Choir Concert. It will be held in the Cafeteria.

Books Are Fun Book Fair

The Books Are Fun Book Fair will be on campus again this year, March 17 from 10 to 4 p.m. and March 18 from 11 to 3 p.m. on the

South Bridge of Main Campus. Gifts, books and children's games etc. will be available for purchase.

Adult Learners Expo

Attend in order to learn more about online, fast-track and accelerated programs for those who have busy lives and cannot commit to the traditional schedule. Held in T-Building from 5 to 7 p.m. on March 18, one can contact Angie Kayser Luzhetak.akaysen@jic.edu.

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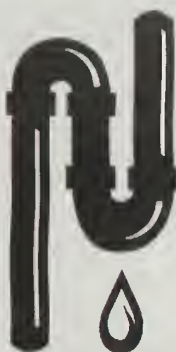
Contact Rob Berki at 773-244-5516 or by email at rberki-01@northpark.edu for more information



NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY
CHICAGO

SNOW DAY?

Ice chips away at water main



By Krystal Moya

On Tuesday March 4, around 3 a.m., school was cancelled due to a six-inch break in the water main just outside G-building. C.R. Leonard Plumbing Co. was on the scene to fix the break shortly after it was discovered.

"It appears the break was caused by the freeze-thaw cycle, thawing and refreezing of the pipe," said Todd Leonard, vice president of Leonard Plumbing.

The weather has caused many breaks this winter in both water and sewage mains around the city, according to Leonard. "All in all, it was pretty routine."

"Maintenance cannot prevent breaks like this from occurring," said Leonard. "It's natural."

However, the break was the underlying cause for the school's cancellation.

"The leak in the main flooded the school's sub-station forcing the heating system to power

down," said Jeff Julian, JIC public relations. "No heat, no school."

The decision to cancel school was advised from Facility Service Director Patrick Van Dyrne to the Senior Leadership Committee and President Genia Proulx.

Cancellations must be made by 5 a.m. for day classes and by 3 p.m. for night classes, as per Board Policy 9.12.

The leak was patched in approximately four hours, however clean-up kept the plumbers on JIC's campus until the afternoon.

Leonard plumbing has worked with JIC for over 20 years and has provided service to most of the area high schools, including Joliet West and Plainfield South.

Looks like a new meaning to the term snow-day for JIC can be summed up by Rob Camphruzi, foreman, "It's a muddy mess."



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JJC hosts IDEA Regional Competition in drafting and design

By Brandon Daum

On March 7 several local community high schools visited JJC to participate in an Illinois Drafting Educator's Association regional competition to determine which students would advance to the state finals in April. Each year the IDEA conducts a series of regional competitions, with winners advancing to a state competition.

Over 100 high school students from Pontiac, Plainfield South, Bolingbrook, Lemont, Peotone, Joliet West, Lockport, Ottawa and Romeoville participated in the competition.

At the start of the competition, participants were given a list of criteria for their entries. IDEA Regional Director and JJC Associate Professor Scott Boudreau said that the competition has been held at JJC once a year for the past 18 years. Schools were invited to participate in this competition based on geographic location and regional divisions.

In the competition, participants were given two hours and 30 minutes to draft. At the conclusion, IDEA judges and industry professionals assessed the entries based on the level of completion, the accuracy to the criteria and the understanding of drafting and design.

"Competition is part of American culture," said JJC Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Dennis Haynes during a short address prior to the awards ceremony. Haynes stressed that competition is present at both college and career levels, and that students should become prepared for and accustomed to it.

There were eight different divisions at the competition. Divisions were Intro Board Drafting, Intro CAD, Machine Board, Machine CAD, Architectural Board Division, Solids CAD, Architectural CAD (2D) and Architectural CAD (3D). Students who placed in these divisions qualified for the state competition, which will be held in Springfield on April 12.

First place winners were Jonathan Blair, Bartosz Bolkunowicz and Steven Bucaro from Romeoville; Thomas Swanson, Lockport; Randall Ehret, Ottawa; Matthew Maule, Bolingbrook; Ryan Strauss, Lemont; and Tyler Walden, Joliet West.

Second place winners were Devon Patterson, Romeoville; Chris Skinner and Ryan Smith, Lockport; Dale Miller, Ottawa; Joe Guenther, Joliet West; Cara Humbert, Pontiac; and Roberto Jimenez, Bolingbrook.

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FEATURES

And they tell their stories...



MAKING MUSIC: A musician entertains passerbys at the recent Pow Wow.

Photo by Alissa Pagels



Photo by Krystal Moya

DANCING QUEEN: A little girl dressed in Native American garb dances to traditional drum beats and chants from a group across the gym.



Photo by Krystal Moya

BECOMING A MAN: Aaron and his big brother Andrew make arrowheads out of slivers of white rock in the children's section of the Pow Wow on the bridge with their parents standing by.

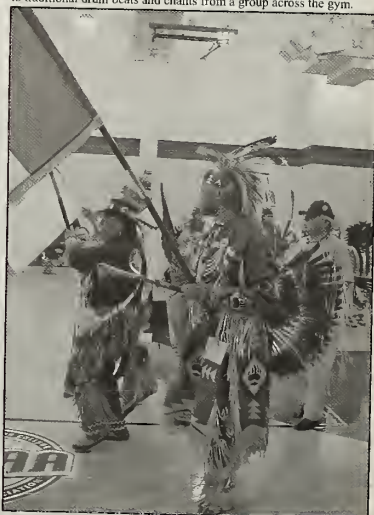


Photo by Alissa Pagels

TRADITION: Native Americans march in traditional headdresses.



Photo by Alissa Pagels

SEE ANYTHING YOU LIKE?: Crafts were plentiful at the Pow Wow.



Photo by Alissa Pagels

ON THE MOVE: An elder shows off a traditional Native American Dance.



Photo by Alissa Pagels

GENERATIONS: Native American women and a young girl show off their elaborate garments during a procession in the gym during the recent celebration at JJC.

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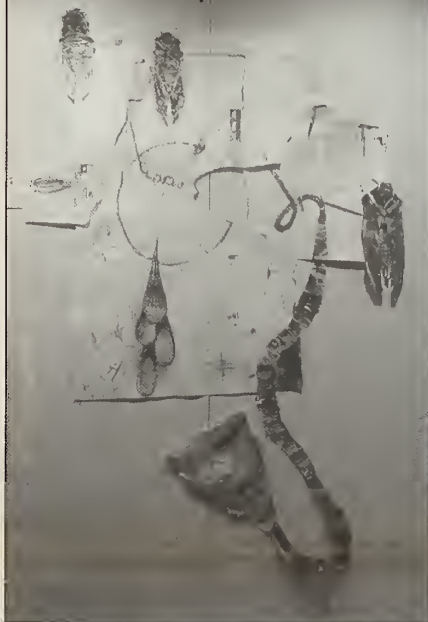
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Gallery debuts faculty artwork



Sao Sack: A mixed-media piece by Ann Blaas.

Photo by Alissa Pagels



LOOKING GLASS: Melissa Dumbrowski admires the fine jewelry handcrafted by Beverly Decman.

Photo by Alissa Pagels

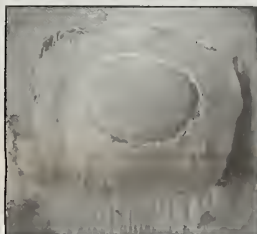


Photo by Alissa Pagels

GLAZED OVER: Another Blaas piece.



Photo by Alissa Pagels

A DREAM?: A dream-like oil painting by Laurie Mullen, titled "If you see me."

Other featured artists are Cynthia Muir, Christine V. O'Conner, Gary Schirmer and Lloyd Wassenaar.

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Ferrell wins again with sports theme

By Matt Sheehan

Will Ferrell has tackled it all. He investigated news anchors in "Anchorman," shaked and baked NASCAR in "Talladega Nights" and double-axed figure skaters in "Blades of Glory." So it would seem natural that professional basketball would be next in his crosshairs, as it is in "Semi-Pro."

Jackie Moon (Ferrell) is a former 70s pop singer, with his top hit opening the film, a Barry White-inspired breathy, soulful disco song called "Love Me Sexy." With all his money made on that, he's purchased the American Basketball Association franchise, the Flint Tropics. He has also become the team's head coach and power forward.

The NBA will be absorbing the top four teams in the ABA, and the latter association will be dissolved. So Jackie sets out to make the Tropics one of the

four teams in the ABA to be absorbed by the NBA. His rag-tag team of misfits include his star player, Clarence "Coffee" Black (Andre Benjamin), and the newly acquired Ed Monix (Woody Harrelson), a former player for the Boston Celtics with a championship ring in tow but a sore butt from warming the bench his entire NBA career.

In order to make it as one of the teams to become an NBA franchise, Jackie uses his flair and passion for showmanship to present crazy marketing tie-ins. In one instance, he wrestles a bear. In another, he and the rest of the team dress up in various beach/summer time characters—Jackie is in a sun costume, whereas Black is dressed as a seahorse.

Mostly, the team loves to get into fights as the all-too-serious broadcaster Dick

See FERRELL, Page 13



Stop Loss Peirce's latest passion

Boys Don't Cry director addresses concern of involuntary military re-enlistment

By Matt Sheehan

Director Kimberly Peirce previously tackled a socially conscious subject in her directorial debut *Boys Don't Cry*. The film is the true story of Teena Brundin, a biological female who masqueraded as a man named Brandon Teena until she was raped and murdered by a few friends who discover her true gender.

The 1999 film earned lead Hilary Swank a Best Actress Academy Award for her portrayal of Teena.

For her next film *Stop Loss*, starring Ryan Phillippe, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Abbie Cornish and Timothy Olyphant, Peirce tackles the U.S. military and it's questionable and sometimes harsh treatment of its own.

The U.S. military policy known as stop loss is a fine-print measure and a somewhat involuntary extension of a soldier's service, sometimes referred to as a "backdoor draft."

Stop Loss, like *Boys Don't Cry*, deals with issues that are very much at the heart of many young people.

"This is happening to young people; they're going through it the most profoundly," Peirce said. "Their families are experiencing it through them, and I wanted to see it through young people's eyes."

To capture that youth perspective "stylistically and structurally," Peirce had the cast use handheld cameras to record the type of events and camaraderie real-life soldiers would experience while away from their friends and families.

"I wanted you to feel like you were inside the mind of a young



Photo by Matt Sheehan

MEET THE PRESS: Director Kimberly Peirce poses beside a poster of her most recent film, *Stop Loss*.

man when you watch this movie," Peirce said. "I wanted to capture the mood of those videos."

Peirce was also challenged to take reality and dramatize it. "I feel an obligation to interview enough people that I begin to see what the underlying emotional truth of the characters is," Peirce said.

"This is fundamentally what is happening to our soldiers. I consume enough of it that I begin to hold the truth in my hands," she added. "That's the work that I love: How do you go from an idea of a character to the character? What's so great is that I get the benefit of learning something myself."

Her inspiration for filmmaking came from her initial fascination as a photographer while living in Japan.

Instead of sticking with still photography, Peirce turned to

film as her productivity, true outlet of "I realized

that I loved photography, but I think I loved movies in a different way," she said. "I think there are stories I want to tell that I can only tell in movies."

War films that inspired Peirce to make *Stop Loss* included *All Quiet on the Western Front*, *Paton*, *Apocalypse Now* and *Platoon*.

Her general career inspiration comes from works ranging from directors John Ford to Martin Scorsese.

"Anything that was human, provocative, real, broke my heart and moved me to laugh," she said. "That, to me, is how I generally figure out if I like something. They were an emotional answer to what I needed. I was raised Jewish and Catholic, but art became like a religion because art was the thing that made the most sense to me."

Following her undergraduate

study at the University of Chicago, Peirce went on to the Sundance Institute.

While there, she learned from such filmmaking greats as writer-director Paul Schrader and director Milos Forman.

Along the way she picked up a great bit of advice along with her filmmaking education that applies to more than just filmmaking students.

"Know your curiosity, follow your curiosity, know yourself and stop at nothing to find out what you need to find out and tell the stories you're passionate about," Peirce said.

"I've had so many great teachers. It is really important to study your craft, and it is really important to work with people who love what they do," she added.

Stop Loss opens nationwide on March 28.

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GLOW prom premieres

By Sheena Neal

On March 20 JJC will welcome its first Gay Lesbian Or Whatever Prom. GLOW has based their event on the requests of many students over the years for an event that was sexuality-friendly. The prom will be a semi-formal event with a fairy tale theme between students from JJC, neighboring high schools and the rest of the community.

"The prom can be a fun way to get everyone together before spring break," said Diannah Tielbur, GLOW sponsor.

However, the prom is limited to seventeen and up with IDs checked at the door. The prom will be held in the cafeteria. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$5. Dates of any kind are welcome, as long as they meet the age requirement.

"Were hoping for a good turnout," said Tielbur. "I'm really looking forward to the prom and see how everything will turnout."

DJ Star Struck will be on the turn tables spinning a little bit of hip hop, R&B, pop and rock. Students get to strut their stuff in semi-formal attire, jeans not welcome, and put in their bid for king and queen.

"I'm going for a nice black dress with great accessories for this event," said sophomore Samantha Padiorick.

Because of the event's experimental status, the future of its recurrence is based on student attendance. The prom has already created a buzz around campus.

JJC audience enjoys faculty musical performance on Sunday

By Rachel Stella

March's Musica Viva featured JJC's Dr. Thomas Liley on saxophone and guest string performers Mara Gallagher, Yuri Grankin, Mark Djordjevic, and Claire Coyle.

Liley's faculty performance's program consisted of two saxophone and string chamber pieces: "Quartet," 1938, by Gordon Jacob; and "Quintette," 2000, by Jindrich Feld. "Quartet" contained four movements, and "Quintette" three.

"I knew [Jindrich Feld]," Liley said during the program. "He just passed away last year, so we decided to perform his music this season. This is the second concert we've done featuring his music."

"I preferred ['Quartet']," said

The Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra will perform on March 15 in the Fine Arts Theatre.

E.B., an audience member. "It's dated 1938; ['Quintette'] is dated 2000. The more modern music sounds different."

Rita VanBuskirk, a music student in the audience, said, "My favorites were the second and fourth movements of 'Quartet'. They were very lively."

"It's hard to pick a favorite," said Philip Spencer, JJC's choral and vocal director. "I liked 'Quartet'. 'Quintette' was more

reflective, but they did a very skillful job throughout [all the movements]."

When asked which movement was his favorite, Dr. Liley's answer was "None. I wanted all of them to be on the program. I like them all."

Upcoming music events include the Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, March 15, at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$7 and are available at the door. There will also be a guest artist recital featuring pianist Myoungsun Huh on Sunday, March 16, at 3 p.m. with a March student recital on Wednesday, March 19, at 11 a.m. capping off the month.

All events are held in the Fine Arts Theatre, unless otherwise noted.

FERRELL

from Page 11

Pepperfield (Andrew Daly) and his color commentator partner, the smoking-and-drinking Lou Redwood (Will Arnett), call all the shots to the face, groin and behind the knees.

All in all, "Semi-Pro" is funny. There are generally good, whole-hearted laughs. That withstanding, it's not all three-pointers. Some attempted buzzer-beaters are lobbed in between in a desperate attempt for a laugh—some leave the crowd so quiet, you could hear a pin drop.

Ferrell is funny here, with a true-life afro he grew on his own. This is not on par with the utter genius of "Anchorman" or the fun stupidity of "Talladega Nights," but it works.

While watching this, one cannot help but recall former White Sox owner Bill Veeck and the influence he must have had on the character of Jackie Moon.

As for Harrelson, he returns to what he does best: comedy. Sporting curled, dandy hair that looks like a wig he stole from Javier Bardem's dressing room on the set of "No Country for Old Men"—Harrelson had a small role in the Best Picture winner—he shows his true talent here.

Stealing the show this time, though, are Arnett and, most especially, Daly. Arnett is perfectly great playing the looney characters that such films as Ferrell's call for.

Daly is particularly funny, using the over wrought sports announcers' clichés everywhere he goes, commenting on a booze-induced poker game in the same way he would announce a ballgame.

"Semi-Pro" is a silly, stupid movie that provides plenty of laughs. Ferrell puts on a full-court press for those laughs and falls somewhat short. Still, not all the gags rim out of the basket—they just aren't up to Ferrell's top of the key comedy.

My rating: 3 stars out of four
"Semi-Pro" is rated R for Language and some sexual content



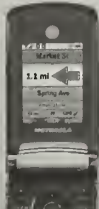
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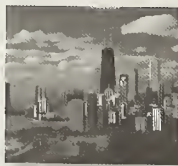


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Women's Basketball

Lady Wolves knocked from Region IV Tourney

By Jim Sheldon

The Joliet Junior College women's basketball team faced a familiar foe in the opening round of the Region IV tournament on Feb. 27, Rock Valley Community College, and unfortunately the results were the same as they were in the season finale four days earlier.

The Lady Wolves were unable to overcome a 17-point halftime deficit in the opening round of the tournament and fell 84-76 to the Golden Eagles at Harper College, the tournament site.

The Lady Wolves and the Golden Eagles met four days earlier in the regular season finale and the Wolves fell, 66-62.

In the tournament game, Shantel Johnson led the way for the Lady Wolves with 27 points and 10 rebounds, a double-double. Martha Benjamin recorded her eighth straight double-double with 17 points and 12 rebounds. Simone Coburn led Rock Valley with 28 points, seven rebounds and three steals. Erin Butler had

27 points, nine rebounds and seven assists.

"We got down at halftime, but made it back and took a late lead with about two minutes left," Head coach Tony Giese said. "At the end, we just didn't have much left."

Despite the tournament loss, the Lady Wolves won 20 games for the fifth straight season, finishing 20-11 overall.

In the 66-62 loss at Rock Valley on Feb. 23, Benjamin led the way with 22 points and 19 rebounds, a double-double. Katie Blocker scored 13 points, including four three-pointers. Telyshia Adams added 11 points and Chelsea Crawford added 7 for the Lady Wolves.

Next season will be a year of changes for the Lady Wolves. Not only will there be new players,

as there are every year, but there will also be a new coach, Shann Sanderson. Sanderson has spent the past three seasons as an assistant coach here at JJC. During his time at JJC, the Lady Wolves have had a record of 71-22.

Prior to his time at JJC, he was an assistant coach for two years under 2003 Daily Southtown Coach of the Year Danny Turner at Joliet Township High School. In his time there, he helped guide the Lady Steelmen to a Regional Championship and two Top 25 final rankings in the Chicago Sun-Times.

Sanderson currently serves as the recreational coordinator for the Harvey Brooks Foundation (Joliet), a non-for-profit organization that provides life-skill development and educational achievement.

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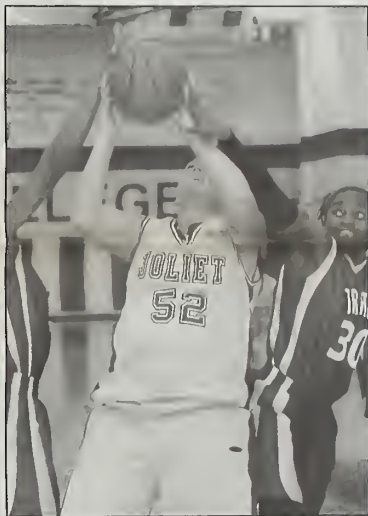


Photo by Mike DiNovo

WOLVES FALL: Center Martha Benjamin tries to score against Triton.

ATHLETES OF THE ISSUE



Johnson finishes
with double-double

Shantel Johnson led the Lady Wolves with 27 points and 10 rebounds in their loss in the Region IV playoffs to Rock Valley on Feb. 27.

Short selected
tournament MVP

Adam Short led the Wolves with 21 points in the Wolves win over the College of DuPage in the Region IV tournament. Short was named Region IV tournament MVP.



SPORTS

Men's Basketball

Wolves advance to national tourney

Win over COD propels JJC to Division III title quest in Delhi, New York

By Josh Green

The JJC men's basketball team has advanced to the Division III National Championship Tournament in Delhi, N.Y., following an exciting overtime win against arch-rival College of DuPage to claim the Region IV Division III Championship.

The Wolves, 24-8, will play Springfield (Mass.) Technical College in the opening round of the national tournament that gets underway March 13. The tip-off will be at 6 p.m. The three-day tournament will crown a national champion for community colleges in Division III. The tournament is being hosted by State University of New York.

On March 1, the men defeated the College of DuPage, 74-72, in a thrilling overtime contest to advance to the national tournament. William Bills hit a 3-point shot with 15 seconds remaining in overtime to seal the victory.

"What a championship game," Head Coach Joe Kuhn said. "This is what championship games are supposed to be. I thought our kids played with composure."

The Wolves were led by Adam Short and Ryan Owens in the regional tournament as both players were named to the all-tournament team. Short, who was named Region IV Tournament MVP, led the Wolves with 21 points against COD. Owens finished with 15 points and 6 rebounds. William Bills and Marcus Moore both scored 9 points, while Tera Whisby added 8 points and 7 rebounds in the win against DuPage.

To advance to the finals of the Region IV tournament, the JJC men first had to take a huge win from Rock Valley College, 56-51, in the opening round of the Region IV tournament. Owens led the Wolves with 13 points. Both Lamar Williams and Lamont Sanders followed Owens with 9 points each.

"We were sluggish the whole way," Kuhn said, referring to the Rock Valley game. "We will have to find a way to score on Saturday." The Wolves found a way in the overtime win against COD.

Now it is on to New York and the three-day national tournament. The Wolves will know by Saturday, March 15, whether they will be returning home with a national championship.



Photo by Michael DiNovo

HEADED TO NATIONALS: Wolves guard William Bills drives against Triton College in an early season game.

Familiar face takes JJC volleyball reins

By Jim Sheldon

Jennifer Peterson has been named the new volleyball coach at JJC, replacing Emily Marino. Marino, who is also the softball coach and women's athletic coordinator, decided to step down and hire a new volleyball coach after completing a 15-20 season in the fall.

Peterson is a graduate of Lockport Township High School, where she enjoyed a successful volleyball career, earning many awards including All-State and All-American honors. She then went on to North Carolina State University where she earned the Atlantic Coast Conference's outstanding senior scholarship athlete award and was also valedictorian. Peterson then earned her master's degree in science education at the University of North Carolina.

"Jennifer Peterson has a tremendous volleyball background. She was a standout in high school and moved on to play Division I. She has grown up in the area and has local ties with high school coaches, which will help her with recruiting," said Marino, who is now the director of



Jennifer Peterson

intramurals at JJC.

Peterson found out about the position through Marino.

"I work with her in the Fitness Center and she mentioned it to me while we were working," said Peterson, who works as an adjunct fitness instructor in the center.

The decision to accept the position was

an easy one for Peterson.

If her name sounds familiar, it should. The JJC fitness center is named for her father, John Peterson, who was a professor and an administrator at JJC before retiring a few years ago.

"From junior high and on, volleyball has been my life. I played at N.C. State and I coached both boys' and girls' volleyball for four years at Lincoln-Way Central High School. I am passionate about the sport and I'm passionate about giving student athletes a great opportunity," said Peterson.

Marino is looking forward to having Peterson take over the volleyball program at JJC.

"She has several years of coaching experience and she is a hard worker and is looking forward to the challenge of building a successful volleyball program here," Marino said. "I am excited to have her here at JJC."

Peterson will also have the opportunity to coach with her sister Nicole and says it's a dream come true.

"My sister and I played together since grade school," Peterson said. "It has been

our dream to coach together since then. We share similar coaching styles and we both carry the same passion for the sport. We are both so excited about this opportunity."

One challenge that Peterson faces now that she's coaching at the collegiate level is recruiting, specifically convincing recruits to attend JJC opposed to a four-year university. Peterson explained the advantages of JJC.

"First, JJC has fantastic teachers," Peterson said. "A student will receive an excellent education by attending JJC. In addition, JJC's small class size allows for much individual attention. Also, JJC athletics have been very successful in sending athletes on scholarships to four-year universities."

All coaches have goals entering a season and Peterson is no exception.

"Our goal is to have a winning record, to make progress toward a national championship and to help girls earn scholarships to universities following their JJC career," said Peterson.

The Lady Wolves will have most of their players returning next season.

BLAZER

Joliet Junior College

APRIL 9, 2008

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Campus Safety

Board to approve new security requests

By Krystal Moya

New emergency blue-light phones are up for approval at the April 8 Board Meeting as a part of the campus' new security plan to be implemented as early as the fall of 2009. Police Chief Pete Comanda and the administration have also tapped into the student resource by organizing safety walks around campus, which allow students to point out areas of safety concern and begin examination by authorities.

"We are doing everything we can to ensure the student's safety at JJC," said Comanda, "and that means we are upgrading to the plans we already have in place."

Comanda went over certain aspects of the plan and pointed out areas where the blue-light phones would go on March 21's 6 p.m. safety walk. Student Vanessa Damiani added to Comanda's address, pointing out areas that she felt was unsafe.

Damiani pointed out exterior doors at the end of secluded hallways that were slightly ajar during the day that she noticed throughout classes. "I just feel like anyone could walk in these doors," Damiani told Comanda. The Chief proceeded to put work orders on the doors finding that the concrete was swollen due to the cold which kept the doors ajar.

Damiani also eued Comanda to look into several other areas of seclusion that needed surveillance, such as the path outside the fitness center and the stairwells in T-building. Both, Comanda said, are currently being taken care of or would be investigated. Comanda also investigated the second exit of the planetarium, noting that it "is not locked from the inside."

The new security plan should make due of the information acquired from the students who attended the safety walks. The plan, fast-tracked due to the NIU tragedy, includes adding



Photo by Krystal Moya

SECURITY CHECK: Police Chief Pete Comanda and student Vanessa Damiani check out the lock on a door in the D Concourse as part of a safety program involving students.

For more "Security" JUMP to page 7

Students ask JJC to aid seniors

By Nick Domberg

The Will County Senior Services Center, along with local residents and student volunteers, is beginning the Senior Medication Project fundraiser by hosting a 40s and 50s-themed "Ice Cream Social" in April.

The dance will be held on April 23 from 4-6 p.m. in the Joliet Junior College cafeteria and admission will be free of charge, although any and all donations to the Senior Medication Project will be accepted. All donations will be used to provide free medication to senior citizens in need on a one-time basis.

The Ice Cream Social will have live musical entertainment by a big band orchestra and free ice cream as well. There is an open invitation for all those

who want to attend the dance or volunteer for the fundraiser. All dancers should wear 40s and 50s period clothes, so dust off those zoot-suits and fedoras.

The event is designed to increase community support for seniors in need and to raise awareness about the issue of over-priced medication.

Many seniors on limited income sacrifice other needs for important medications. Medicare can help, but recent health-care plan changes have hurt drug funding for seniors. Income brackets in the health care system can also add to this problem. The resulting unavailability of cheap medication for seniors calls for community efforts and contributions.

Volunteers are needed, as the Senior

Medication Project will be an ongoing fundraiser until the end of the semester. Volunteers will help senior citizens by getting involved in the community and learning leadership and initiative. Help is needed in setting up the event, soliciting donations and promoting the project.

Active senior citizens, residents, JJC students and staff, and Will County Senior Services Center workers are all chipping in to help the cause.

This is the first year of this fundraiser thought up by Student Government President Dimitra Georgouscs. Student Government members began planning the project last fall and have gained support to make it happen. Georgouscs and her fellow volunteers intend to make the project and annual event.

Student Darren Newenhouse will be coordinating volunteers for the Ice Cream Social. Newenhouse says that anyone can contribute and that "the average JJC student can help just by spreading word of mouth." He added that all donations for the Senior Medication Project should be made payable to the JJC Foundation.

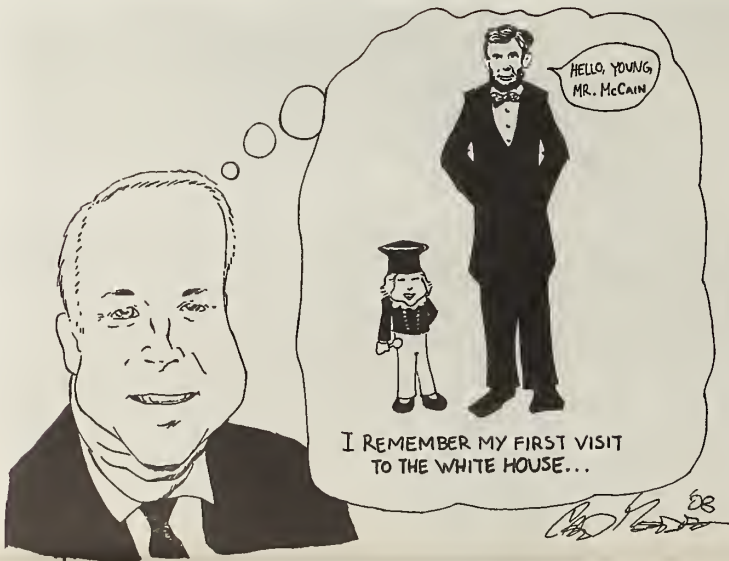
The tentative goal for the fundraiser is \$5,000, but this number may be surpassed by the semester's end.

To do your part, contact the JJC Student Government, and for more information, contact seniormedproject@gmail.com.

The Will County Senior Services Center can be contacted by phone by calling (815)-723-9713 or by email at seniorservicescenter@agingspecialists.org.

OPINION

Political Commentary



An ode to the overwhelmed: A plea for teachers to spread the load

EDITORIAL

As the semester winds down, students are forced to spend the proverbial all-nighter scraping together hours of notes and research for the seven final projects and papers that they have to complete in the same week.

The lack of sleep creates zombie-like 20-year-olds who wander down the C-concourse in search of caffeine, not-to-mention professors who must lug around 32-plus papers, which are slightly less than par, to slice into and make bleed. Essentially the epidemic comes down to overbooking.

Every semester students are

bombarded by a barrage of research paper missiles and make their way through Power Point barbed wire. The land mines of MLA formatting and critical analysis prove to be numerous and ominous.

Yet, the commanders of the classes, those wielding the power to announce the "Charge!" insist on going forth with their blitzkrieg. Increasingly interesting is the fact that most of these commanders are continuing their own forms of boot camp for doctorate degrees and dissertations.

The confused professors

seem to have lost sight of the plight of being a student even while going through the process themselves. They have the blinders of forced schedule on to keep them from wandering away from the student-professor battle at the end of a term.

Teacher's arm themselves with shields of syllabi and swords with red ink to combat students' complaints of overwhelming schedules, disarming excuses with a "you have known about this since week six!"

However true it may be, this is a dirty tactic. Students

may have known about the impending attack, but could only estimate the how, why, and what before the atom bomb was dropped. Also please note that most professors simply cannot fathom the life of a community college student, which for most of us consists of multiple jobs and horrendous bills.

So the Blazer proposes a draw. We all drop our arms and in the spirit of a cease-fire agree to spread those bomb-projects around and sign a contract agreeing to a maximum of one end-project per class. Give peace a chance.

Corrections

All corrections are from the March 12 Issue 8 article "Master Plan: JJC's progress delayed by city's indecision."
• The Master Plan Steering Committee did not meet on March 11, but the Board of Trustees

did.

The article implied that timelines for the Master Plan's approval were contingent upon city action, but the Master Plan is not contingent upon the city approv-

ing the proposed Bridge Street Town Center. School officials say, Center is not the "backbone" of the plan.

The Master Plan Steering Committee's study does not include the new

center in its budget, but, city officials believe it will be lucrative for the school. (See Master Plan page 4)

The campus center is mainly being re-constructed for the campus's student

traffic.

Both the proposed culinary arts center and nursing and allied health campus ideas have been revised and now have different designs (See Master Plan on page 4).

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What ever happened to SOUL, America?

Commentary

Nick Domberg

In the everyday hustle of life, it is easy to forget that far-fetched idealism that is the American Dream. Not the comfy, complacent, homestead complete with white-picket fence, but a humanistic attempt for life, liberty, and the achievement of happiness.

The "pursuit" of happiness is an easy way to say that one should sacrifice the here and now for tomorrow, and this has been shoved down our young throats for much too long. Sure, security is an issue that is on the top of many minds, but many will find that years of worrying about the future will leave them cold and hollow.

A wise man or a scriptwriter once said "get busy living or get busy dying". Those busy dying are deathly afraid of our most basic freedoms, and that is a sad fact. A worthy sulk may be to cut through the semantic junk that dominates American life and open each other's eyes by any means possible. Sounds idealistic? That's the beauty of it.

The concept of time itself is an omnipresent ball and chain on the mind. Of course, a universal time scheme is necessary for any type of orderly scheduling. No one likes a deadline, but without this necessary evil, procrastination would overcome the obligations of the social sphere. With that said, though, there is still the mass obsession with the second hand of the clock.

Some complain about a lack of freedom in a daily schedule, only to spend hours in front a television set watching other people's lives on hyped-up reality shows. Granted, it is their right to unwind to some trash T.V., but sometimes it seems like the soul has been left behind for a buffet of cheap thrills. To waste away free time and slave away the workday with one eye always on the clock is the path of a fool. The minute to minute nit picking doesn't

accomplish anything but wasting even more "precious" time.

The emphasis on exactness of time has bred a longing sense of escapism that keeps people forever "looking out the window" of the classroom of life. The key may be to find a happy medium between wandering like a lost puppy, and bustling around on ant mode. When one gets the strange urge to stop and consult their timepiece, it is probably time to stop and smell the flowers.

In the dawn of the most exciting time in history, there is a strange new emphasis on jargon and semantics that bogs down the message of a cultural revolution. The technology of today has made many wonderful achievements possible in science and society in general. It is best to appreciate what is good about any given object or material and not be biased to a natural or artificial method of creation.

Nature is awesome, but it can be stupid and cruel. There is nothing wrong with nature being dumb and ugly because it is paradoxically brilliant and beautiful. If one practices the natural at the strict exclusion of the unnatural, they are practicing Organic Facism.

For example, to insist that a woman who paints berry juice on her lips is somehow superior to the woman who wears designer lipstick is sophistry; it is smug sophistical fallacy. Lipstick is a chemical composition (so is the berry juice), and are both effective for decorating the face. The thing is good because it is good, not because it is natural; just as a thing is bad because it's bad, not because it is artificial. Besides, it is near impossible to tell the difference nowadays, especially in the taste industry.

Words like "natural" and "artificial" simply refer to different methods of extracting and synthesizing tastes and smells. A processed food is a processed food any way you slice it. The chemistry of tastes and odors is incredibly complex. One may think the smell of something such as strawberry is a relatively simple matter

Be informed, stand up, and scream unto the White House, "If ignorance is bliss, than knock the smile off my face."

but that smell comes from the interaction of at least 350 chemicals in minute amounts. The ingredients of a burger king milkshake alone is enough to make anyone cringe and think twice about what they are slurping down.

In the end, the fries will probably be scarfed down, the quadruple cheeseburger will be savored and that milkshake will undergo a whole new adventure in chemistry in the digestive track. The natural and unnatural will commingle in our stomachs and we will go on consuming everything like the "civilized" omnivores that we are.

Forgive the personal implications of this statement, but what is communication without personality? Anyway, it is best not to dwell on the semantics of what is tasted, smelled, or worn on the body; but to appreciate what we can take from them because in the end, that is what really matters.

The sacrifice of continuous learning in favor of a comfortable and completely static point of view that is bland and anything but unique, may be one of the worst moral sins one can commit against oneself. To be a walking contradiction is nothing to be ashamed of. Embracing the dichotomy of the human spirit is a must if any type of self-realization is to take place.

The quest of the Divine Fool never ends, because the ride is too fun to face an ending. However, it is evident among my

peers that pleading ignorance is the popular path. I hear voices proudly declare that they know nothing about something.

When conversation swerves away from the standard "water-cooler talk," many take the easy route of an aloof denial of the human ability to formulate complex ideas and opinions. Being around people who do not have the courage to listen or speak up almost has one wishing for a pious loudmouth with something to say. Something is always better than the next to nothing of small talk. A "how's it going", or a "what's up" is almost never with an expectation of an answer. It is the most popular rhetorical question of the century. Instead of reveling in a self-tailored stupor, it is about time that my generation learned the power of the question.

A herd of dimwitted cattle has no questions, complaints, or cares about where to graze. Keep on feeding them the material wants that they beg for in the media, and a disturbing quiet will fall over a country founded on ideas of individualism and revolution. Be informed, stand up, and scream unto the White House, "If ignorance is bliss, than knock the smile off my face."

A life completely dedicated to material gain and one dependant on time schematics is a harsh and narrow path. The easy way out of pleading ignorance is an idiot's favorite excuse. It stunts any form of higher discussion and spreads a disgusting fad of deliberate stupidity.

In the most privileged civilization in the world, there remain opportunities of mental wealth all around. The duty of Americans should be to stay informed and express personal freedoms whenever possible, leaving behind useless semantic details and focusing on the big picture. That big picture is the ride of our lives; so do not let it pass. Know the power of the question, speak up, and get in touch with the soul because the soul is all we really have.

Commentary Celebrating the art of words

Krystal Moya

In the light of National Poetry Month, I have decided to share some of my poetry to celebrate a work of art I love so much. It is through poetry that the word is truly meaningful, each one having distinct purpose, each one worth only what it means. Poetry's uses are numerous and wonderful—metaphorical entanglements of societal truths, or shames, diverse exclamations of love and sex, evocative images of the ordinary.

My poem below was written for a creative writing class here at JJC taught by William Yarrow. Through his class we explored the confessional poetry of Sylvia Plath, the symbolist movement through Rimbaud, Chinese poems that elicit nature and simplicity, and the beat poetry of Lawrence Ferlinghetti. The latter is the author who inspired this poem. To just at the world was Ferlinghetti's speciality. I would like to share my jest with you:

Carcinoma

By Krystal Moya

spiral sun blades slice sweet
girls from Ipanema
sand-sprinkled naked, baked, crispy epidermises
with peeling dragonfly wings
decorating their shoulders and noses.
cobalt mounds of flesh
wink ominously from their
Thong, th-Thong, Thong, Thongs
while blissfully lying on granules of glass.
I ask an Amazonian if she wants my burger...
No.
She's being healthy.
and precedes to slather Crisco on her
breasts.

For more poetry see page 7.

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NEWS

MONEY SMART

Phi Theta Kappa brings in Lt. Governor to keynote



Photo from Money Smart Publicity Kit
LT. GOVERNOR: Pat Quinn to keynote speak at Money Smart JJC.

Proposed Schedule JJC Money Smart

10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.
Welcome & Introduction
Mara, Pat & Dr. Proulx

10:15 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.
Pat Quinn, Lt. Governor
State of Illinois, "Protecting
financial consumers in
predatory lending"

1st Session -
11:00 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.
2nd Session -
12:00 p.m. to 12:50 p.m.
3rd Session -
1:00 p.m. to 1:50 p.m.
4th Session -
2:00 p.m. to 2:50 p.m.

Establishing and Keeping
Credit - Sessions 1 & 2
a. Session 1, "Identity Theft"
presented by James Glavin,
Will County State's Attorney
11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Women's Finances - Ses-
& 4
Budgeting 101: Saving M-
Sessions 1 & 3
Small Business and Enter-
preneurship - Sessions 2 & 4

By Krystal Moya

Lt. Governor Pat Quinn has been confirmed to keynote at the first Money Smart 2008 sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa on April 16 from 10-3 p.m. State Treasurer Pat McGuire organized the event in order to promote financial literacy.

Quinn's keynote address will start the event off. His lecture will be called "Protecting Financial Consumers in an Age of Predatory Lending."

"It gives students a chance to learn financial means that they would not necessarily learn in high school or even here," said Tamara Brattoli, English professor and Phi Theta Kappa advisor.

The event coincides with the larger Chicago Money Smart Week that is held annually by the Federal Reserve Bank with activities on finances and the issues that surround them.

According to a recent press release, Will County has the highest foreclosure rate in Illinois. Essentially, the Money Smart project hopes to prepare the net generation of home owners from "exotic loans" and identify their two growing crisis in the financial world.

The event works to promote the understanding of fiscal



Photo from Money Smart Publicity Kit
STATE TREASURER: Pat McGuire

responsibility through workshops and lectures headed by financial experts.

Credit maintenance, saving and budgeting, women's finances and small business and entrepreneurship are the four workshops with multiple sessions for students to attend during heavy traffic hours.

"I am hoping that because of the way things are scheduled, everyone will have a chance to attend at least one session," said Brattoli.

"It's very exciting for JJC!" said Brattoli. "This is a big event."

For a schedule of event times see "Proposed Schedule JJC Money Smart 2008."

Master Plan moves for board approval

By Krystal Moya

The Master Plan's approval is on the agenda for the April 8 Board of Trustees meeting, leaving the budget to be approved at a later date.

Vice President for Administrative Services Dave Agazzi says that the first board meeting is for the approval of the plan and its advances for the campus without funding in mind.

The current Master Plan under view has approximately \$220 million worth of implementation costs that span from constructing a new campus student center outside the C-F concourse to developing the City Center into a state-of-the-art culinary facility.

After discerning feedback from the Likes and Dislikes survey conducted by the Master Plan Steering Committee, Agazzi says he would "highlight the Nursing and Allied Health building on main campus as a major change."

The plan, which can be found detailed on the website, also uses picture to compare other community college's buildings and centers to JJC's current look. Most notable are the pictures of the offices to be moved to the new student center. The purpose is to be more "inviting," according to the planned presentation.

"We studied both pedestrian and traffic patterns at the college and discovered that the true center of campus is between A and C buildings," said Agazzi.

"Since the college had to build a new building because we cannot expand our existing student services, we had to find a new site for student services."

The development the Master Plan has been under fire by some because of rumors with regards to the proposed interchange between Interstate 55 and Interstate 80 and the proposed mega-retail complex Bridge Street Town Center. The plan includes the interchange in its design, incorporating it just beyond campus lines parallel to Centennial Drive.

"While the proposed road as presented by the city was included on our proposed site plans, the new development did not impact the development of the Master Plan," said Agazzi.

However, though the two were developed separately, "the two should aid each other," says City Manager Tom Thanas.

"JJC would benefit in two big ways from this retail center and interchange," said Thanas.

"One being the project will add to the tax base to real estate

and the money derived from those taxes will provide JJC with opportunities. The second being the many internship possibilities students will have in this new place of business."

Agazzi says, however, that the steering committee, LEGAT architects and he have not factored the proposed development into the Master Plan budget.

One funding proposal calls

for \$89 million to come from referendum, \$57 million from a tuition bond and \$74 million from private or non-for-profit organizations.

However, past master plans have also included over-haul designs that include major construction and "didn't have the funding attached," said Agazzi.

Past referendums failed and the states budget cuts for community

colleges have affected the outcomes of many master plans.

However, Agazzi says he is "most excited about the fact that we have a Master Plan that has the funding to match it."

The meeting to approve the financing will be held on April 29, while the meetings for the city on the interchange and development center are April 14 and 15 at 3:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Scholarship application extended

By Allissa Pagels and Krystal Moya

The application deadline for JJC scholarships has been extended to April 15th due to technical difficulty with the Scholarship Tracking and

now moved to the digital format rather than the traditional paper to make use of the new technology.

Apply for scholarships by April 15 at
www.jjc.edu/financialaid/scholarships

Review System (STARS). Previously, the deadline for most scholarship applications had been April 1st.

The STARS system is brand new, and according to a recent press release, makes JJC the "first community college in the state to offer its students the newest, most efficient way to apply for scholarships."

All of JJC's current offered scholarships can be found on the website. All applications have

JJC offers over 400 scholarships to students to apply to, according to a JJC gifts and scholarships specialist. They are offered in order to appease some of the costs for four-year universities as well as current JJC tuition.

Students can take advantage of the due date extension by logging on to www.jjc.edu/financialaid/scholarships and completing the FAESA at www.fafsa.ed.gov. For any questions contact Julie Allsopp at jallsopp@jjc.edu.

OSA hosts Wellness Week for JJC students

By Brenda McCracken

The thirteenth annual JJC Wellness Week will feature a variety of fun and educational activities at the Main Campus on April 9 and 10 to promote health and well-being.

On Wednesday, a Wellness Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the D-F Concourse, featuring local vendors displaying services and products that support healthy living. On Thursday, seminars will be offered every hour from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in J-0006, addressing different aspects of wellness.

"All students, faculty, and staff are welcome to attend," said Coordinator of Student Activities and Holistic Wellness Amy Sims. Sims planned the events to provide information in a fun and interesting way on how to maintain a healthy lifestyle. The activities focus on "holistic wellness," promoting physical, emotional, mental, social, nutritional, intellectual, occupational, financial and environmental fitness.

On Tuesday, Environment, Health and Safety Director Ed Vasil kicked off the seminars with a discussion of school safety. Tuesday's seminars included school safety, sleep deprivation, nutrition, women's health and bright start college savings.

On Wednesday, over 30 local vendors will be available at the Wellness Fair.

Vendors will include Every Body Massage, Groundwork Sexual Assault Services, International Ice Centre, March of Dimes, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Will County Health Department, Provena Hospital Sleep Disorder Center, MB Financial Bank, and many others. "We used local resources to increase awareness of the large network the college community has available to

support students' well-being," said Sims.

Student participation in the Wellness Fair has increased each year. "Some students questioned why a bank was allowed to participate in a wellness fair, but financial stability is an important part of staying well," said Sims. No personal information will be collected, and there will be no pressure to purchase any items or services. On Thursday, the Will County National Alliance on Mental Illness, a grassroots organization, will close out Wellness Week with a discussion of mental health. Thursday's seminars include ice skating and fitness, date rape drugs, nutrition, health and law of attraction and mental health. Sims will be participating in the fair and will be happy to discuss other resources available to promote health and well-being, such as the Life Skill Sessions which are offered every semester at JJC. Sims also coordinates other activities including student clubs, and is always available to speak with students.

Sims came to JJC in October 2006 after working at Benedictine University. She has a Master of Science Degree in College Student Affairs from Eastern Illinois University.

Listing of Thursday events:

- 10 a.m. Ice Skating & Fitness by Joliet Park District
- 11 a.m. Date Rape Drugs by Guardian Angel Community Services
- 12 p.m. Nutrition by University of Illinois Extension Center
- 1 p.m. Health & Law of Attraction by the School of Metaphysics
- 2 p.m. Mental Health by NAMI of Will County

Blotter

Criminal Trespass

A Romeoville man has been arrested at Centennial Commons for an active in-state warrant. On March 10 an officer was dispatched to the Commons to investigate an alleged attempt of obstruction of justice and criminal trespassing.

The subject, Hillard T. Brown, Romeoville, had no ID on him when the reporting officer searched him. Because Brown had an active in-state warrant for his arrest, he was transported to the Will County Adult Detention Center Facility where he could not produce \$1000 bond.

Hillard is set to appear in court

on April 10.

Criminal Damage in Property

On March 20 an officer was called to East Lot 3 to investigate damage done to a JJC student's car.

The student had only been in class for an hour and a half when they came to out find the passenger side of their car had been kicked or hit. The officer also reported minor scraping and loose paneling. The incident is still under investigation.

Criminal Trespass, ID & Credit Card Theft

On March 20 Aven J. Jones of Joliet was referred to the campus

police for allegedly trespassing into Centennial Commons.

According to police, the officer on duty found that Jones had trespassed into the tie Commons in a vehicle. Upon learning that Jones' license was suspended and there was an active warrant for his arrest, the officer searched the vehicle and found a black BB gun among three credit cards that did not belong to Jones.

Jones was transferred to the police station where he confessed to taking the credit cards. He was then taken to the Will County Adult Detention Facility and will appear at the Will County Court House on May 5.

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News Briefs

Joliet Regional Job Fair

Looking for a job? Joliet Regional Job Fair will be at Main Campus on Friday, April 11 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. For more details check out www.jjc.edu/jobfair or contact Jan Moeller at jmoeller@jjc.edu

Candlelight Bowl

The April 12 Candlelight Bowl will take place at Joliet Town and Country Lanes, 2231 W. Jefferson St. in Joliet. This event is sponsored by Special Recreation of Joliet and Channahon Parents' Association. Raffles will be held, and event tickets cost \$25, which will include food and bowling. Attendees must be 21 or older. All proceeds will benefit SRJC programs for individuals with special needs. For ticket information call (815) 741-7275, ext. 175 or 169.

Success Story Series

President of Harris Bank in Joliet and JJC alumnus Steve Randich will be presenting the latest in the success story series

on April 17 at 12-1 p.m. in J-0006. For more information contact Delia Ulloa-Jimenez at (815) 280-2328 or email duelloa@jjc.edu.

Culinary Scholarship Recipient Dinner/Gala

The Culinary Arts and Hospitality Department is hosting a dinner for scholarship recipients on Friday, April 25, from 6-10 p.m. Tickets are \$95 per person. The gala will take place on the main campus bridge and cafeteria. Please refer ticket orders and questions to (815) 280-2255.

SPRITE Super Saturday

Join the SPRITE Club as they host a fun filled day for children 3-8 years old on May 3, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Early Childhood Center on Main Campus. A 'kid friendly lunch,' readings, games and other activities will be available throughout the day. The cost for the day is \$18. Call the Early Childhood Center at (815) 280-2280.



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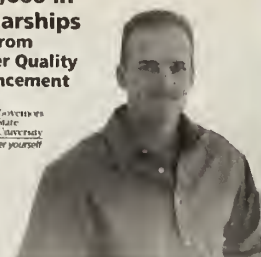
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Poetry continues in celebration of National Poetry Month

A Conversation at Night

By Krystal Moya

I spoke with her as frost skated up the window pane.
Her eyes glittered in the dark, leather
cradle's headrest.
She was captivating, very manipulating.
I couldn't stray away from her
intoxicating
well-words that she knelt into a
gloomy, stratus sky.
Her tender scratches with a whip-like
tongue excavate
Carefully around the woven, bony rib
edges
Of prehistoric heart strings. Oh! Love the
notes she plays.
Like violence, she stole my gaze. Like
love, she cruelly hates.
I was devoted, entranced, baked, and
stuck. Then, she erupts:

Look at me! She screams in exaggerated
fashion,
Lying about family and her mother's
reputation.
Spewing fifth, pity, and plight, destitute
with delight.
Singing lyrical jazz songs that skat her
life story...
That is, if she had one filled with schizo
knuckle-draggers.
She loved to dance on broken toes,
bringing up the past,
Rehashing old love stories, and lost,
If she can find someone to listen, she will
talk 'til three.
Her words lay out in puppet-shows on the
dashboard.
The bad shadows of the fore lurking in
the background.

Captivate you! She will, with her crazy
normalcy
Compared to the nerds and her wild
west adventures.
She performs like Shakespeare, Racine,
Moliere, and Goethe
You never once catch on to her
confabulation.
You never once catch on to her
manipulation.
You never once catch on to her awkward
contortions.
Blindly, she will lead you astray into a
silk web
And she will engulf you whole, never
letting you go.
That is, only if you really want to be let
go.
And it is guaranteed you will want to
stay.

I bought every share in her company's
stock that night,
And was with her from the first liquid
word's fall
From her light pink lips, like two delicate
tulip petals.
However, as time soon discovered, she's
a fake.
She dresses in impeccable costumes of
the time.
She makes her face up with precision,
never missing.
But, the light came up from a headlight
across the way
And flashing across her pretty, feminine
face,
Allowed me to take her in for what she
really was:
Unconducibly, utterly, astoundingly me.

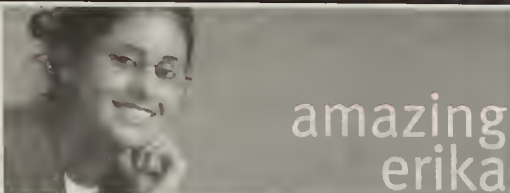
"Security" from page 1

367 throw-locks to campus
doors at an estimated \$350,000
and approximately 110 new
security cameras at \$900,000.
A new emergency notification
system will also be implemented
at an annual cost of \$75,000,
along with additional training
for emergency situations, at no
specified cost. Photo identification
cards have been approved for an
initial cost of \$25,450.

Security updates have evolved
from the implementation of the
Emergency Response Plan in
2005. This plan encapsulates
strategies for dealing with
emergency situations from fires
to armed intruders.

The campus also has identified
approximately 75 sector leaders
who are trained in CPR, first-
aid and AED use, according to a
recent press release.

These leaders, who volunteer
their time, will help organize
students and staff in the event of
an emergency. They are normally
clad in orange vests.



Erika Torona has an amazing capacity for helping others. That's just one of the discoveries she's made as a student at Dominican University. Whether volunteering at a shelter or spending her spring break working in the inner city, Erika has learned that it takes both compassion and action to create social change. It's a lesson she'll take with her as she heads out into the world.

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FEATURES

Working through cancer: President Proulx opens up about her illness



WORKING WOMAN: President Gena Proulx sits at her desk shortly after her first round of Chemotherapy clad in her new wig. Proulx was diagnosed with fallopian cancer, a rare female form of cancer.

By Krystal Moya

President Gena Proulx sits across from me, hands folded on the table and a large, black notebook to her right. She is smiling and ready to work. I try to ease into the interview, asking some basics to break the ice. "We're going that far back?" Proulx asks me when I question her about her education career's origins.

She wants to get things going, so I decide to just dive in. Proulx describes the process that she went through over winter break when she discovered she had fallopian cancer. The avid exerciser went in for possible hernia-pain only to find she was without a hernia and with symptoms like a "very firm knot in [her] abdomen."

After several tests and nothing found, she went in for laproscopic surgery on Jan. 29 in which doctors found a small tumor on her fallopian tube. It was malignant. It was removed.

"When nothing shows up in traditional tests, the only way to tell is to do it laproscopically," she said.

Proulx was told she would still have to complete chemotherapy, but was relieved that her worst fear — ovarian cancer — was eliminated from the diagnosis.

"I was very afraid it was ovarian cancer. They used to refer to ovarian cancer as a silent killer," Proulx said.

"But I had no symptoms," Proulx said. "I wasn't suffering whatsoever."

However, the thought of not going to the doctor for the firmness she felt was ominous.

"I still wouldn't even know; that's what is so scary," she said.

So there the president sits back at work, only days after her first chemotherapy treatment. And, she's fine — a little tired, but fine.

"My family was pretty healthy and I never lost a student until I came here," Proulx said.

"There was no existence of cancer in my family until I was an adult and my dad died of cancer," Proulx said.

When her father became ill, she wasn't able to see him because she was out-of-state for school. Work always seemed to take the first seat.

"I couldn't even be near my father. I was in another state, very far away," she said. "But when something like this happens, you reaffirm your value of family."

Her mother, 82, also became ill with cancer, specifically leukemia, and Proulx was once again unable to watch over her due to state lines and workloads.

When Proulx found out her diagnosis, she refrained from telling her mother immediately. Soon, the family bond tolled on her and she spilled her secret that she had kept so her mother wouldn't worry.

"She was relieved to know I was doing well, as was she," said Proulx. "I think its the Irish blood."

Her daughters were not immediately told, except for the eldest. Just the same, she kept it relatively quiet until she was officially diagnosed.

However, once Proulx was comfortable in sharing her ordeal, she reached out to Michaelene Nash, dean of nursing and allied health. Nash gave her advice and served as moral support.

"She's in great spirits. She is just very positive. It's good to have someone there who is supportive," said Nash.

Proulx will continue to work through her chemotherapy.

"There are times when you think, should I just quit working and enjoy life?" she questions. "But, cancer doesn't mean you have to stop working."

Essentially, though Proulx keeps long hours at work. Finding it awkward to go home at 6 p.m., she leaves everyday with the message: "Now I know the family is there and should be first."

Poets arrive at JJC for Poetry Month

By Krystal Moya

Tony Barnstone, English professor at Whittier College and published poet, opened National Poetry Month early on March 13 with a lecture that revolved around translations. James Xexavier, published poet, helped students explore words on April 1. Both poets, though distinct in style, gave JJC students a taste of the poet's world in order to celebrate its art form.

The artists both mingled in the audiences before their lectures and discussed classes and students with JJC professors. Professor Bill Yarrow discusses how two students met in online in his creative writing class and ended up falling in love to Barnstone. He comments,

"Match.com meets critical writing." Xexavier spent time being introduced to students, staff and faculty by Professor Stacey Murphy. Barnstone's presentation was first, taking place in the theater, amongst a pretty large turnout. Barnstone spoke of the magic of translation saying "there is a common humanity in linguistics."

Essentially, Barnstone believes that the proverbial question in translating poetry is whether to preserve the tone, the meaning, or translate word for word. "Which one is honest? Translation is a rhyme not an equal sign," he said.

Xexavier on the other hand focused more on the aspect of performance and the use of words

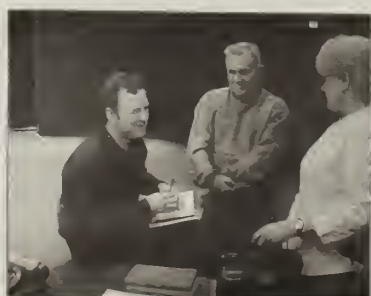
in poetry. He emphasized that meaning can never be transferred between two people, but rather translated into something that interests the other — an experience of their own.

"My performances are my interpretation of how I believe my poems should sound at that particular place and time, and like everything else, are subject to change, and thereby may potentially change the overall semantic quality of the poem," said Xexavier.

Yarrow, Murphy and Professor Adam Heidenreich asked questions to the poets in both venues, playing devil's advocate for students to begin asking their own questions. Students can attend the Word Eater event on April 29 at 2 p.m. to explore more.



WHERE IS IT?: Tony Barnstone looks for one of his poems.



AUTOGRAPH: Tony Barnstone signs a book for Brenda McRacken

Ending an era at JJC: Malmberg bows out



WATCHFUL EYE: Sue Malmberg guides a student in the keyboard lab.

Photo courtesy of Fine Arts

By Krystal Moya

Sue Malmberg has had a musical legacy here at JJC, the college where she spent her entire career teaching and training students in the musical arts. The women who spent over 20 years at JJC including many musical productions is retiring at the end of the semester.

Malmberg has not only taught at JJC but has also been a part of the musical directing team for nearly every musical since she has been here. However, her ties are severed there as well.

"I need a break," Malmberg says about continuing her

directorial occupation.

After having an accomplished career and appearing as an accompanist on her most pride-filled CD, Malmberg plans to pack up her memories.

"I'll remember Hell Week for the musicals I directed and I'll remember my time as Phi Theta Kappa advisor," said Malmberg.

Malmberg and her husband, John Toth, plan to travel in their time off, returning to Europe and visiting relatives elsewhere.

She will also continue to perform lessons, which she has been practicing with students since her days as a concert pianist.

Malmberg hopes to leave behind students who love music and listen to music. Some of her students have gone on to perform with orchestras and as concert headliners.

"Some just like to take the intermediate class," said Malmberg. "I have one older gentleman who has been taking the same class for more than 8 semesters because the piano soothes him."

"It's therapeutic."

Malmberg's successor has not been revealed, but from what she hinted at it is safe to assume she has high hopes and good luck.

Sweitzer looks to new horizons

By Allissa Pagels

After 29 years at Joliet Junior College, Professor Thomas Sweitzer is retiring. Currently, he teaches abnormal psychology and child and adolescent development, but has taught many other psychology courses during his career including psych 101, social psychology, and personality theories. Sweitzer has been an important part of the JJC staff for many years, and if he had the chance, he would "do it all over again in a heartbeat."

Hometown?

Rockford, Illinois. I used to spend winters in Rockford for school and summer in Wisconsin at my parents' resort.

Hobbies?

Photography, riding my motorcycle, traveling, and reading.

Favorite music genre?

I'm a child of the 60's. I like good old rock n' roll, jazz, Bob Dylan, etc.

Favorite class to teach?

Child and adolescent development. That class really makes an impact on students. It is a class taken for credits, but it's also more than that. I've taught parents, their children, and even their children's children!

Why did you choose to teach at JJC instead of a four-year university?

Good question! The student body has a lot to do with it. Also, the focus is on teaching, not on "publishing or perishing." I've enjoyed my opportunity to

supply a successful foundation for a four-year institution.

How would you describe your teaching experience at JJC?

Teaching at JJC is very existential. A semester after I am gone some will remember me. A year after I am gone it will be as if I wasn't here, because students come and go so quickly, but I like to think I've left something behind.

What is your favorite part of your job?

I really enjoyed the student retreats to Northwest Iowa. For seven years, I have taken groups of students on a five-day retreat, focused on personal growth through psychodrama. Students who went really gained a lot. I will treasure that for the rest of my life, and wish I could have done it more.

If you could, would you change anything about your career?

No, from the deepest parts of my soul, I wouldn't change anything. I have had the privilege of being involved in many young people's lives, sharing my pearls of wisdom. I am deeply grateful for that opportunity.

What will you miss most about teaching when you retire?

The students. I have been very lucky, teaching has never felt like a job. I've had the chance to interact with many students and form meaningful relationships.

For "SWEITZER" JUMP to PAGE 13

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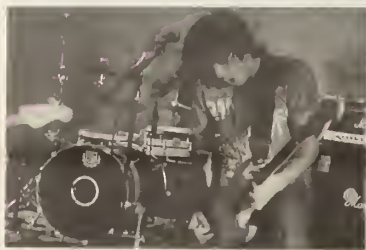
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Battle of the Bands takes center stage at JJC



Photos by Nick Domberg and Micheal McMahan

MUSIC IN THE HOUSE: This year JJC hosted the Battle of the Bands where various student musical groups battled with musical finesse for the love and vote of the audience. This year it was the piano and voice of the band Polymnia Nyx, that won them first place (Top). With a name reflective of both Chicago and Miami, the band Windy City Heat took a close second. (Middle). Trailing close behind, Brun Hilda took third (Bottom).

Diversity rules

GLOW Prom attracts crowd

By Sheena Neal

This past month brought an amazing twist to a time honored tradition. The Glow (Gay Lesbian or Whatever) Prom was an exciting event from start to finish.

On March 20 at 7 p.m. the prom began with students in line coming to take part in the festivities.

From then on the night was full of excitement. With DJ Eva Trimble on the job the music that played all night long had students on their feet busting a move or two.

"I thought there was great music," said sophomore Samantha Padick. "And I had fun dancing with my friends."

The prom was fairytale themed with traditional aspects like others

semi formal attire and Prom Queen and King. However, the prom strayed away from its traditional roots with its drag show. The eye popping performance gained the entire crowd's attention and entertained everyone.

"It went off without a hitch. It was truly great to see so many different walks of life attending and having a good time," said Prom King Dan Rickard.



BREAKING IT DOWN IN THE CAFETERIA: Dancing it up at the GLOW Prom, from left to right, Rob Difazio, Seth Fuerst, and Adam Schmidt enjoyed the music stylings of the DJ.



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Christopher Boeyink

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8 In more than 100 student organizations, you'll get your chance to lead. Transfer students routinely hold top positions in our Student Government Association, award-winning student newspaper, and throughout campus life.

9 "You can get real-world experience with a great internship. I'm a psychology major, and I did my internship with the National Alliance on Mental Illness," says Sofia De Luna. "I provided people with resources they really needed, such as support groups and even housing. It was a great experience."

10 An Elmhurst education is intensely practical. Each of our majors offers both cutting-edge theory and plenty of opportunities to practice how the theory actually works in the real world.



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ENTERTAINMENT/ARTS

Comedy tour at JJC

Southern Fried Chicks frisky and fun

By Matt Sheehan

On Thursday, March 13, the Southern Fried Chicks comedy tour made a stop at JJC, thanks to the JJC Alumni Association and the organization's annual benefit comedy night.

Lead by Etta May and supported by Trish Suhr and Sonya White, the Chicks played to a near-capacity Fine Arts Theatre.

Suhr began and immediately established her beauty queen roots, proudly primping her big hair because it makes her "closer to the Lord...Cause He sees you coming with that hair."

Suhr also made note of her upbringing in her family's funeral business, adding the craziness some people went lengths to be buried in: one deceased man's coffin was a replica, of sorts, of Dale Earnhardt's NASCAR.

Second performer White quickly went into her part-rural, part-big city routine wanting men to come up for a wet boxers contest. Her reason? "You don't get the same reaction when you toss a bucket of cold water on a guy," she said.

Love and romance was next on the list, where White said her mother wanted her to find a guy like White's father, but "I'm not marrying a guy who snores out of both ends."

Later, she shared another piece of love advice her mother gave her. "Men are like linoleum: Lay them right once, and you can walk all over them for the rest of the night," she said.

Religion was another

Baptists and Catholics is "at least Catholics say hello to each other at the liquor store."

The biggest reaction came when White said she wanted to get a tattoo of the General Electric logo on her inner thigh. "GE

Also, she noticed at a recent outing at the Waffle House that, according to the Weight Watchers points' system, she "just ate February."

Noting her increase in age, May elicited a good response when she

hair, she was "trying to figure out if they ran out of bleach or brown."

Also, when noting one of her son's friend getting a 50 Cent tattoo, he asked an African-American man in the noticed she conversed with a little earlier in her bits if he was a rapper.

After a dense oohing from the crowd, May said "He's Black. If I wanted to know about ZZ Top I'd ask this guy," pointing to another front row audience member with a trucker hat and long white beard, earning the crowd with laughter.

The group essentially is a female version of and a response to the Blue Collar Comedy Tour.

May, the fearless organizer, is the Jeff Foxworthy of the group, with a "You might be a redneck..."-type bit called the White Trailer Trash Test.

White is an obvious Larry the Guy-inspired character—just funny and not as annoying. Suhr didn't get the crowd going until later in the routine, nonetheless charming the audience with her drawl and southern belle good looks.

Despite a partly hit-or-miss show, the Southern Fried Chicks (one short, as Beth Donahue was busy getting married) left the crowd deep fried and doubled over, a good night nonetheless for them and the Alumni Association.



Photo courtesy of Southern Fried Chicks

CURIOUS: Clockwise from right—Sonya White, Etta May, Trish Suhr and Beth Donahue comprise the female comedy troupe "Southern Fried Chicks" who entertained JJC Thursday, March 13.

notation on her hit list. Raised Baptist, White said that Carrie Underwood's migration from the song "Jesus Take the Wheel" to the lyrics of "Before He Cheats" is "not too Christian."

White elicited a substantial amount of laughs when she said the only difference between

brings things to life, you know," she said to the boisterous crowd.

The grand finale and longest routine, May, the leader of the back, is a middle-aged wife and mother who has a slight weight problem after having been banned at Weight Watchers meetings "for little thin meetings."

said some women have melons, but she had Fruit Roll-Ups.

As a mother, May said that raising three sons was easy: "Give them a book of matches, and they're happy."

May played well off the crowd. When she saw a young woman in the front row with highlighted

Stop Loss

'timely and thought provoking'

By Matt Sheehan

"Stop Loss" is another entry into the entertainment plaza of Iraq War-critical motion pictures. It deals with and criticizes the United States military sometimes unfair, automatic recruitment of soldiers, sometimes referred to as a "backdoor draft," whose tentacles in the armed forces are up—and the repercussions that occur thereafter.

Sgt. Brandon King (Ryan Phillippe) and his group of fellow few and proud, including Tommy Burgess (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) and best friend Steve Shriver (Channing Tatum), return home to deep in the heart of Texas from their recent tour of duty. Families and girlfriends are waiting with open arms and plenty of celebration. Senator Orton Worrell (Josef Sommer) congratulates Brandon on his meritorious service for his country and says if there's anything he needs to give him a buzz.

Well, as one might guess, when Brandon returns to base to return his gear and officially bid adieu to the military, he gets "stop-loss-ed."

He doesn't quite understand and questions his superior, Lt. Col. Boor Miller (Timothy Olyphant), eventually lambasting him to the point of being tossed in the stockade. Brandon escapes, going AWOL and sneaks home where his sister—and Steve's fiancée—Michelle (Abbie Cornish) drives him across country to Washington, D.C., to use the favor the senator put forth.

Writer-director and University of Chicago native Kimberly Pierce does create an authentic, if not near perfect, realization of some of the horrors that our nation's soldiers are experiencing in Iraq. Originally conceived as a documentary, Pierce took what hand-held camera footage she had and recreated the images with the most realistic war images since the opening D-Day reenactment in "Saving Private Ryan."

Additionally, she does well with the actors in creating genuine emotion between family members and friends of those who are affected as deeply as those in uniform. She first showed this talent to establish on-screen

interaction, both bad and good, in "Boys Don't Cry."

However, it is in these relationships that the film's shortcomings lie. With a running time just over two hours, Pierce stretches those relationships a little thin, dragging the film into unnecessary scene extensions and tangents; the cross-country travel of Phillippe and Cornish is the main culprit. Pierce and her editor could have tightened up scenes and cut others, easily shaving the film's running time to a lean, mean under-two-hour machine.

Still, the subject of "Stop Loss" is both timely and thought provoking enough to be good for both artistic expression and social commentary. It could've broken new ground and been ever so revolutionary with a youth-oriented subject produced by MTV Films but somewhat bogged by a mildly-mishandled effort. The ending is neither Hollywood nor shocking, which is a perfect summation of this good film.

My rating: 3 stars out of four
"Stop Loss" is rated R for graphic violence and language.

Aisha Smith takes home talent prize with unique dance

By Krystal Moya

Aisha Smith, Paige DeChausse and Chris Walusek took home the big prize money and trophies from the Social Sciences Enrichment Club's talent show in coordination with Student Government.

The JJC students competed against dance groups and duets to take home the title of JJC's most talented.

"All the acts were very impressive," said host Francis Owusu, also known as Cell-Fix. "I tried to be a mentor, give them some advice. Don't be afraid. You got to turn it on."

Smith's act danced into the hearts of the audience and won her first place of \$100 and a large trophy. Her solo performance was accompanied by the live decay.

"I was speechless when they called my name. I was so surprised," Smith said.

Smith has been dancing in some form since she can remember. "I hope to start my own dance crew up with my best friend and travel and dance and just keep winning," said Smith.

The pint-size diva gave a shout-out into the microphone upon her win, arms raised high. "She's really a shy girl," Owusu said.

"I loved performing in front of JJC," said Smith.

"The audience was very respectful. They were great, which is good when you are going with the flow," said Owusu. "It's not like I had written jokes down or anything."

DeChausse's powerhouse vocals won her second place as she blew the crowd away to a bluesy number. Walusek sang crooner era songs that wooed the crowd to applauding for him to win third place. DeChausse walked off with \$50 in prize money. Walusek made off with \$25. Other contestants were given certificates for participating.

According to Owusu, also a member of the SSEC, the talent show will be reprised for the following semesters until it falls out of favor with the students.

"I'm hoping to make the prizes bigger. It would be great to get \$200 for the next winner. Nothing confirmed yet, though," hinted Owusu.

Frozen gives chills at JJC theater

By Shawn Faust

An examination into the mind of a serial killer, the stagnant life of a woman victimized by the murder of her child and the breakdown of a psychiatrist burdened with the goal of rehabilitating a murderer; this is what one can expect from JJC's upcoming play *Frozen*, directed by Clay Kirkland.

Premiering Thursday, April 17, at 7:30 p.m., with repeat performances Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and a matinee performance at 2:30 on Sunday, *Frozen* is a play featuring the lives of three people: Ralph, who is a British serial killer who was abused as a child, played by Adam Schmidt; Nancy, who is the mother of one of Ralph's victims, played by Brooke Johnson; Agnetha, who is the psychiatrist researching Ralph and the serial killer mind, played by Elec Schrock.

The play itself is relatively new. It was written in the mid 90's by Tyrone Lavery, a British actor turned playwright. *Frozen* has won the 1998 Barclay Award

"After reading it I felt like I got punched in the stomach, but in a good way."

—Director Clay Kirkland

(UK) for Best New Play, and its first Broadway performance in 2004 earned it a Tony Award Nominee for Best Play.

Considering the cast list consists of four people with three primary roles, the play is not very action based, but rather character driven. In fact the majority of the first act is a series of monologues by the main characters. Kirkland warns future audiences that the play is very serious with nature language and themes.

Frozen allows the audience to examine the human capacity for forgiveness, remorse, and change while raising questions on the way society views criminals and how we punish them. Given these facts, Kirkland feels his primary

job as the director of this play has been to supply an artistic vision and to serve as an acting coach. Kirkland said, "I've spent a lot of time working with the actors collectively and individually to really get into their roles." To further help him focus on this task set design has been left to student Jimmy Jago, who had undertaken this task for *The Runner Stumbles* previously this year.

With much of the plot carried by character dialogue, it's no surprise that even the title reflects the characters, with each character "frozen" in a sense by the events of their lives. The play covers a twenty year span jumping from past to present to show how Nancy is frozen in grief over her

lost child, Agnetha by the loss of her close friend, and Ralph by the abuse of his childhood. Also as the title suggests, the play promises to be chilling and breathtaking.

"I find this script very powerful. After reading it I felt like I got punched in the stomach but in a good way," Kirkland said.

To convey such powerful emotions the play demands a lot out of its actors, but luckily the students are up for the challenge. Schmidt, who performed as Fortinbras in *Fortinbras*, finds it hard to adjust from being comedic to playing such a serious role. Relatively new to theater, being actively involved only since last August, Schmidt feels that even if he doesn't know, by show time he will really fit the part of Ralph.

Agnetha, the psychiatrist examining Ralph, falls into hysteria more than the other principal characters, thus it is no surprise that Schrock, who has acted since Junior year of high school landing the roles of Ophelia in *Fortinbras*, Smitty in *How To Succeed In Business*,

Dromio in *The Comedy of Errors*, and Guch in *Manne*, was casted for this role. However this role still demands more of Schrock than she is used to.

"My biggest challenge is working up the motivation to cry," Schneck said.

Johnson's role is not free of obstacles either. She plays the distraught but multifaceted role of Nancy. This role requires a lot of heavy emotion as the audience watches Nancy deal with the loss of her child over a period of twenty years. In her three years of acting at JJC Johnson primarily stuck to comedy, and this will be her first serious and lead role. She finds it challenging to really get into character. Kirkland was very satisfied with his choice of cast members and feels that he has found 3 actors in the principal roles that he is very comfortable with.

Tickets are eight dollars for the general public, five dollars for seniors, JJC staff and non-JJC students and three dollars for students of JJC.

R U N ! Fatboy finishes for 3

By Matt Sheehan

"Run, Fatboy, Run" is a sweet yet drawn-out piece of charm that carries laughs most of the way through the marathon of jokes and gags.

Dennis Doyle (Simon Pegg) is a slightly overweight—not necessarily a fatboy, as implied by the title—is a security guard at a lingerie store of downtown London. He lives in the basement apartment of which he always forgets his keys to, forcing him to bug the landlord, Mr. Ghoshdastidar (Harish Patel), who still bugs Dennis for rent.

There is one thing that Dennis is true to: his young son Jake (Matthew Fenton). Problem is, Dennis still yearns for the love and affection of his one-time fiancée Libbie (Thandie Newton), whom he ran away from on their wedding day—while she was pregnant.

Still jilted by the fact that Dennis is "always running away but never in the right direction," Libbie falls for ambitious businessman Whit (Hank Azaria). While, you see, is a runner of marathons for charity. The upcoming Nike River-Run is his next and biggest challenge. To prove he can finish what he starts to Libbie, Dennis proclaims, albeit spur-of-the-moment, that he will run the marathon, too.

Problem is, Dennis equates running a marathon with watching one, in it's entirety, on TV. And he needs a charity to run for.

So begins the training for the extensive run with best friend Gordon (Dylan Moran) and Mr. Ghoshdastidar as coaches, running on behalf of National

Erectile Dysfunction Awareness. During the grueling process of cramming six months of training in three weeks, Dennis and Whit's relationship goes from neutral to battling for Libbie's affections.

David Schwimmer, best known as Ross from "Friends," makes his directorial debut here. And while the aforementioned TV series isn't it's course thin, so does this film. Jokes and gags are a little drawn out, even for a film with a 100-minute running time. Still, the film carries a certain amount of charm, thanks in part to Pegg.

Best known as the lead in the exquisitely hilarious "Shaun of the Dead" and "Hot Fuzz," Pegg has a certain everyman's way about him, able to fit himself into a comic role that calls for physicality and timing. He just doesn't do as well with Azaria, another hilarious individual that doesn't get to spread his comic wings much here. Instead, Pegg plays better off in the "Shaun" and "Fuzz" co-star Nick Frost. Fortunately, Pegg has Moran, a "Shaun" alumnus himself, who really gets to break free and just about steals the show from Pegg. They both play well off each other and seem to know each other's capabilities.

Sure, some jokes don't work, and the ending is predictable, if not expected. But "Run, Fatboy, Run" crosses the finish line battered and bruised but successful nonetheless.

My rating: 3 stars out of four
"Run, Fatboy, Run" is rated PG-13 for sexual humor, nudity, language and smoking



Photo courtesy of JJC Website
TOM SWEITZER

Sweitzer

Do you have any plans after retirement?

I am going to move to Hendersonville, North Carolina with my honey. I will do some traveling, ride my motorcycle through the mountains, and see what the universe brings me.

What advice can you give to aspiring psychology students? Stay attuned to how the

culture changes. Stay abreast of the research, on the cutting edge. Go with the flow and don't become a puddle!

Have you ever thought about writing a book?

There are 28,000 how-to-live books already out there. I don't know if I am one of those people. But who knows, maybe you'll see me on Oprah one day.

Leatherheads gives 'strong laughs'

By Matt Sheehan

Let's get it over with: George Clooney is a sexy man. He's got good looks, charm, suave sophistication and tremendous talent to boot.

Unfortunately, those indelible qualities get the ball running but can't help "Leatherheads" during the end game.

It is the year 1925. Football is a major powerhouse of a sport, with a wide-reaching net of spectacle and awe—but that's college football.

Professional football is played on the cow fields of rural states with near-zero rules and ragtag players, including the debonair yet tough Dodge Connolly (Clooney) and his Bulldogs of Duluth, Minn.

To put the team's philosophy in perspective for you, the new addition to the Bulldogs thinks the best idea of blocking his teammates is to punch anyone who comes near—including the referees.

At the same time, Carter "The Bulker" Rutherford (John Krasinski) is the star of Princeton's football team, aiming at a respectable, non-sport career after college. A highly-underrated World War I hero with endorsements deals ranging from toothpaste to cigarettes, Carter's

talent attracts the attention of more than just Dodge, who hopes to land the prospect to help legitimize professional football instead of teams folding from bankruptcy.

Lexie Littleton (Renee Zellweger) is a feisty and ambitious journalist in the male-dominated newsroom of the Chicago Tribune, able to firebarbs more intense than any of her male counterparts can. Lexie's boss assigns her to cover Rutherford's backstory and the possibility that his legendary heroics—an entire German regiment surrendering to him—may not be all that and a bag of chips.

As she further rides along with Dodge, Carter and the boys, tension occurs between the three as both men begin to fall for the spirited appeal of Lexie.

At one point, the men lay themselves to fisticuffs that is language appropriate to the time, only before a punch is thrown, each man asks not to be punched in certain areas of the body—Dodge has a bad knee and a shy "hinderquaters" while Carter has a rough back and shoulder—while leads Dodge to suggest, "Why don't we just go for the face?"

Clooney expands his directorial efforts (his, his, third) into comedy after two dramas, most notably his

previous work, the terrific "Good Night, and Good Luck." This is crafted to be a "Philadelphia Story"-style, with Clooney showing he is the heir-apparent to Cary Grant: charming, good-looking and able to do drama, suspense, comedy, etc.

Zellweger displays that same zest for female vitality as Katherine Hepburn with a hint of Doris Day. The dialogue they share is both funny and touching.

The film is both a physical comedy and a romantic comedy. With Clooney adding such comic pedigree as Zellweger, Krasinski (NBC's "The Office") and ever Stephen Root, he shapes a funny cast with a humorous script co-written by Clooney frequent collaborator, "Decan's" director Steven Soderbergh. And yet, one problem exists: the film goes beyond the logical conclusion point.

Very similar to last month's "Semi-Pro," "Leatherheads" is a moderately funny sports movie that doesn't quite hold together.

"Leatherheads" does have some strong laughs, don't get me wrong, but when it's 4th down, the game kind of falls apart.

My rating: 3 stars out of four
"Leatherheads" is rated PG-13 for brief strong language



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April 17, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the C-Concourse

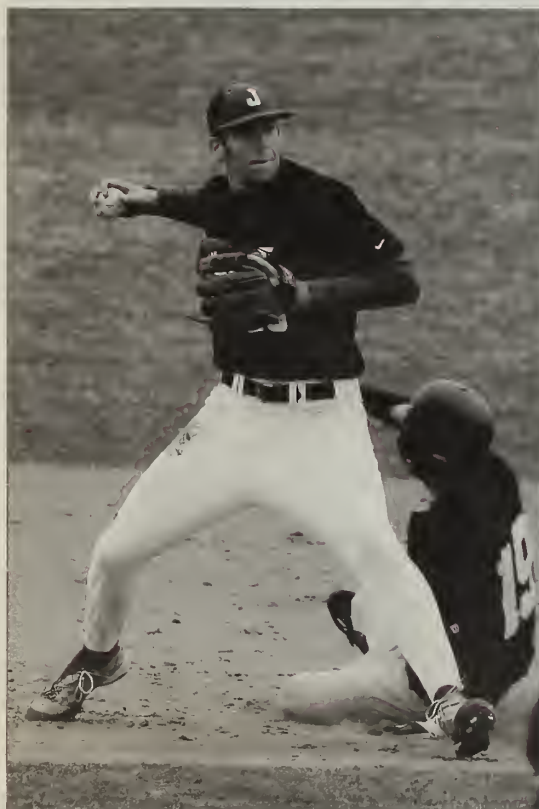
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Gooey 'D': Infielder Ed Koncel avoids the sliding runner.

Photo by Mike DiNiro

Baseball WOLVES let weather blow over

By Jake Widlowski

Weather can be a difficult factor to overcome during the early stages of the college baseball season. With the first games of the year beginning in early March, it can often be difficult for a team to get in an early rhythm.

The Joliet Junior College men's baseball team was supposed to have their first game on March 5, but due to bad weather and cancellations, the season didn't officially start until the 10th. The team has a record of 16-6 through April 3 and is ranked number 1 in the Ringor/NCAA Division III Baseball Poll.

Head coach Wayne King realizes that the weather has been rough for his team to overcome this year.

"We have made some small strides as a team so far, but we still have a long way to go to get better. With the weather being so inconsistent it's tough. If we can get into a rhythm, I think we will be able to improve a lot more."

The freshman pitching staff was one area of concern heading into the season for the Wolves. JJC lost a few of their top pitchers from last season's team. The coaches knew they had to rely on quality hitting this season in order to make up for some rust that the young pitching staff may give up. King had this to say about the young pitchers.

"They are inexperienced and

still need to get their feet wet in big games. But in the meantime, our defense and hitting has really got to step it up and carry the load for us right now."

This year's annual spring trip to Tennessee was a bit of a disappointment for the Wolves. JJC went 2-4 on the outing and lost two of their games by over ten runs. The trip south is usually a time to just get out and play and gain some experience.

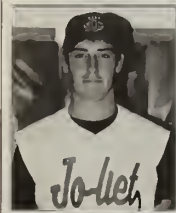
Since arriving back in Illinois however, the team has won 14 of 16. On March 30, JJC defeated NAC conference opponent, the College of DuPage, by a combined score of 25-4 during the doubleheader. In game 1, Kevin Barnett (3-1) pitched six innings, gave up one hit and struck out eight to get the win. In game 2, Brandon Howard went 4-for-4, Brett Velon was 3-for-4 with 3 RBIs and Hector Belen had 6 RBIs.

JJC hopes that they have shaken off some of the early season rust and now looks forward to getting into the bulk of their schedule. The Wolves have a stretch of games starting on April 9, which includes 16 games in just 20 days.

As spring time rolls around, it appears that the weather isn't the only thing starting to get hot. The Joliet Junior College baseball team appears to be hitting their stride at just the right time.

ATHLETES OF THE ISSUE

Roark strong on the mound



Dillon Roark pitched five innings, gave up two hits, two runs and struck out six in an 11-2 win over NAC conference opponent the College of DuPage on March 29.

On March 24, he pitched a no hitter against the College of Lake County, striking out 15 batters in a 4-0 win.

For the season, Roark is 5-0 with a 1.13 ERA, recording 40 strikeouts.

Breakey delivers at the plate

Kim Breakey was clutch for the Lady Wolves in their doubleheader against Madison Area Technical College on March 28.

In game 1, she was 2-for-4 with a homerun, a double and two RBIs in an 8-7 loss.

In game 2, she was 3-for-3 with two RBIs and stole a base.

For the season, Breakey has a .414 batting average and six RBIs.



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SPORTS

Softball



SAFE: Infielder Steffanie Hazelton slides safely against Madison.

By Adam Fox

Sometimes when things go wrong, they go very wrong, and that is the case for the Joliet Junior College softball team. The season started with the first two games of their Tennessee tournament canceled due to bad weather and their game versus Blackhawk College had to be moved due to snow.

Despite the weather, the Lady Wolves came out of the gate struggling. The Lady Wolves have a record of 6-10 through April 3. Considering in 2007 it took them 12 games to get their first victory, this is an improvement for head coach Emily Marino.

The Lady Wolves were swept by the Blackhawk Braves in a doubleheader on March 22. In the first game they lost 10-4, and in the second game they lost 5-1.

The starter for both games was sophomore Kate Votta. She got roughed up by the Braves in the first inning of game one and had to be replaced by freshman Erika Rodriguez. Coach Marino said this about her team's struggles in game 1.

"We actually scored in the first inning and our pitching struggled a little bit, and I had to replace the pitcher cause she could not find the strike zone. And at that point they had scored quite a few runs and we were kind of chasing after that. Trying to catch up and we ran out of time."

The only highlights from the game came off the bats of first baseman Nicolette Vanderhyden and outfielder Kim Breakey. Vanderhyden got two singles,

while Breakey had a single and a double.

The Wolves had a tough time hitting against the Braves, in both games according to the coaching staff, especially the 1-4 hitters of the line-up.

Game 2 was a lot closer then the final score indicated. JJC trailed 2-0 up till the sixth inning but after walking the bottom of the order, a pitching mistake and an error cost the Lady Wolves as they fell 5-1.

JJC only collected three hits in the second game. Why the major offensive struggle? Breakey tries to explain.

"We're hitting the ball hard; they're just being caught a lot. We're just getting the ball to the wrong spot."

Marino clarifies the offensive struggles as well.

"We're putting the ball in play but not really driving it. We're hitting some weak ground balls and pop-ups. We can't beat teams like that, especially if your top of your lineup is doing that."

With the offensive struggles continuing, it will be hard for the Lady Wolves to win games. But the only way to get the offense back on track and start winning games is to look at them one at a time.

"Hopefully we will win our next game, then we're going to start winning a lot more and build our confidence up as a team," Breakey says.

Let's just hope the Lady Wolves are done canceling games due to snow.

Braves prove to be one brick house the Wolves can't blow down



EYES ON THE BALL: Outfielder Elyse Snyder watches the ball against Madison.

Photos by Mike DiNovo

News

JJC Job Fair Businesses provide opportunities

Shown Faust

Co-editor-in-Chief

On September 16 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and September 17 from 3 to 7 p.m., Joliet Junior College featured a two day job fair event that included business' offering part-time and seasonal positions the first day as well as full time positions the next.

Businesses offering part-time positions included A-Z Home Services, Bath and Body Works, Comcast Cable, First Midwest Bank, Illinois National Guard, and Toys R Us to name a few. Many of these employers have businesses set up in the local area surrounding JJC. For a more expansive list of employers who attended the part-time job fair visit the JJC web page. The site also includes links to the sites of the employers where you can apply for a position.

The organizer of the part-time job fair and director of Career Services, Mary Jo Wolfersberger, explains that it was an opportunity "for students to learn how to put together a resume, network with employers, and secure jobs to help them pay for college expenses." Based on feedback from the employers Wolfersberger recommends that students come prepared with a resume.

A comment from one of the employers at the fair confirms this. "The students who gave resumes and asked questions were most impressive."

Packets of information regarding resumes and the job fair are located around campus. In total the part-time job fair was both helpful to students and employers.

A representative from Sears said, "It was a great job fair. It is always a good opportunity for our holiday staffing."

A representative from Bath and Body Works said, "I worked the job fair for my current employer and I also attend JJC full time as a student. I had a wonderful time and I think it is a successful way for students to explore their opportunities."

The part-time job fair is not typical of most colleges and universities.

Wolfersberger said, "Most

See Job Page 5



A new Master Plan for JJC

Kat Kozlowski

Production Manager

Now in the design phase, the JJC Master Plan is planned to be completed by 2012. The plan calls for a number of improvements on the main campus and at the City Center, including construction of a new allied health building and a new campus center.

To help pay for the Master Plan, the JJC Board of Trustees raised student capital fees \$9 per credit this year. Pending the result of the Nov. 4 building bond

referendum, the students will be assessed an additional \$9 per credit hour fee for the next two to three years. If the \$89 million referendum passes, the board has agreed to drop the capital fee increases beginning next year. Contrary to popular belief, however, the \$2 tuition increase for the FY2008 is not connected to the funding of the Master Plan.

"College tuition is used to fund operational items, which do not include capital improvements to campus," said Dr. Gena Proulx, JJC president. If passed, the referendum will

cost the owner of a \$200,000 home about \$15 per year. If it is not passed, the capital assessment will cost each full-time student at least \$270 per year for the next two or three years. Current students will most likely not be seeing all of these changes completed before they graduate or transfer. According to Proulx, the plan was designed with cost sharing in mind.

"The (administration) team proposed to the trustees that the students, the taxpayers and private advancement initiatives

be used as ways to fund the Master Plan," Proulx said. The idea is to try to spread the cost of funding the Master Plan in one way or another. An exhaustive study of the campus classroom and lab usage showed some interesting results, which helped to form the basis of the five-year Master Plan.

"As a result of the study, a significant shortage of student development space was identified; thus, you will see that a much-needed campus center

See Plan Page 4

JJC remembers victims of 9/11

Rob Langton

Staff Writer

It was a Wednesday morning just as any other at Joliet Junior College. Students arrived and went about their usual business of congregating with their friends and finishing up any last minute class work. However, there was a distinct quietness and sense of grief in the atmosphere. The date was Sept. 11, 2008, seven years after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and Flight 93 had took place.

At 8:45 a.m. outside D-building by the flag pole, JJC held a 9/11 tribute ceremony in honor of those who lost their lives on that fateful Tuesday morning. The ceremony was conducted by the Joliet Police and Fire Department. The gathering consisted of students, faculty, staff and administrators. The ceremony was sounded off by bagpipes, followed by a rifle salute from

the Joliet Police Color Guard and soon after taps were played.

JJC Campus Police Commander Melvin Cornelius approached the flag pole and stood in front of the crowd. He then asked for a moment of silence in honor of the people who lost their lives on the morning of 9/11. During this moment, heads were bowed and tears were shed and a moment later the outside ceremony was concluded.

Even though ceremony lasted for only a brief period of time, it was a powerful 15 minutes of remembrance. "It was very emotional, but at the same time it was very serene," said Magen Lutz, vice president of student government. Cornelius said he decided to participate in the event because, as a law enforcement officer he feels a "brotherhood" with those who perished in the 9/11 attacks. After the flag pole ceremony, the event moved indoors. At approximately 10 a.m. students and faculty gathered on the



Photo by Rob Langton

Joliet Police Color Guard perform a rifle salute as part of the 9/11 tribute.

bridge for a slide show and a video documentary on the attacks on the Twin Towers. "I was surprised by the number of people who showed up on the bridge," said Pam Dilday, director of student activities, who orchestrated the event on the bridge and put together the 9/11 slide show.

Dilday believes the college should hold the event every year because it's important for everyone to relive the experience. She said one student approached her after the event was over and said, "Thank you for putting everything together."

Roll with the changes

As we head into the 2008-2009 school year with a new staff, new stories and new faculty at Joliet Junior College, it's refreshing and sometimes aggravating, to know that some things don't change.

As we make our way on to campus, with its own major changes on the way according to President Eugenia Proulx's updated Master Plan, there still seems to be a misunderstanding about the idea of where, when, and how to stop one's car.

Not as simple as reading signs and proceeding, with whatever amount of eeping through the lot, row by row, to search for

that impossible Holy Grail of a parking spot. This has proven even more difficult

as this year considering that JJC has its highest enrollment of students ever, which explains why some had to park in the grass the first week of classes.

Speaking of traffic... Though the concourse from buildings C to E has been given a facelift of sorts with furniture that looks like something straight out of *The Jetsons*, some still haven't learned not to stand in a circle in

the middle of a steady lane of foot traffic. You wouldn't

stand and chat in the center of Houbolt Rd. at 11 a.m., so why do it in a busy hallway?

And yes, there are windows into those classrooms above that concourse, however when you're walking by and there's a class in session, you don't actually have to stare in as you pass. Seeing a head with two beady eyes coming at you through the glass does not make it easy to focus in class.

Of course the biggest change this year is the increase in tuition. Students are paying \$270 more to take classes this semester than last and that doesn't include the cost of books and other miscellaneous fees.

Regardless of these and other differences, it's refreshing to see changes being made on campus that aim toward a better future for JJC.

And while many students may not be around to see these significant changes take place, we can only hope that the updates will make the college more productive, efficient and capable of producing successful graduates.

EDITORIAL

Why good music in movies is crucial

Shelley Holmgren
Production Manager

There comes a time in cinema when the stars align, the seas part and a music supervisor can make history with the perfect equation of song to scene. Could you imagine Tom Cruise's brief dance into fame without Bob Seger's "Old Time Rock and Roll" in *Risky Business*? Even the fire-breathing vocals of Celine Dion belting "My Heart Will Go On" still gives you a heart-constricting flash of Kate and Leo before you jump ship. It's when these two factors conjoin in harmony that a movie truly becomes iconic.

I don't know about you, but whenever I hear a song on the radio, if it's been featured in a movie, I'll know it. From there, the song will drill into my head the insatiable need to watch that movie all day. Although I can admit that this Pavlovian response can sometimes be inconvenient, I completely believe that music, not good music, is crucial in cinema today. Honestly, the moment I witnessed Buffalo Bill shimmy and shake to "Goodbye Horses" in *Silence of the Lambs*, I knew I was a goner.

A taboo in music/movie harmony is when a star decides to put their own musical talents on the big-screen, a majority of the

time ending in a nuclear disaster. I doubt

that few people weren't left mutated after Britney Spear's "mind-blowing" performance in *Crossroads*. It's undeniable that the former Mrs. Fiedlerline can sing, but when you combine that with textbook acting 101, defacing a Joan Jett classic and Taryn Manning, it definitely brings *Crossroads* to a whole new epic level. Hopefully your attempts at remaining lucid will be rewarded with the promise that there is no *Crossroads* 2, at least not that I am aware of... I feel that such films should carry some sort of advisory on the cover, "Warning: A Hot Mess of Musical Talent Inside!" If only we were all so fortunate.

However, not all occasions of thespian karaoke are catastrophic. For example, I would like to humbly thank Mr. Apatow for the finale musical number of *The 40-Year-Old Virgin* in which a short, gyrating Seth Rogan boasts a mind-blowing baritone to the tune "Aquarius." It seriously changed my life, so my most sincere gratitude to you, Judd. Additionally, comedians like Adam Sandler in *The Wedding Singer* and Steve Carell in *Dan In Real Life* exhibit their comedic talents as well as their ability to break your

heart with their shaky-pitched renditions.

Although I have fabulous musical tastes, largely due to my best friend, The Academy Awards definitely has had a skewed perception of quality music featured in films. By this, I mean the same Academy who awarded Three-Six Mafia with an Oscar for their "groundbreaking" work in the film *Hustle and Flow* in 2006. I guess it's not so hard for a pimp after all. Albeit, I have to admit that the Academy redeemed itself the next year by awarding Marketa Irglova and Glen Hansard the Best Original Song award for "Falling Slowly," a title track from the indie film *Once*. If you have seen the film, which I highly recommend, when Irglova and Hansard wail in harmony in a modest music shop to this track, you know exactly why they won. It's a goose bump inducing, heart throbbing, incredible three-minute performance that is a reminder that the right song can even sway the Academy.

On the contrary, we should explore what happens when there's no music at all. Lucky for us, the over-zealous Coen brothers answered that question last year with their Oscar-winning picture *No Country For Old Men*. For the vast majority of the movie, there

is no musical score, no country anthems, there is only the sound of Javier Bardem's haggard breathing and his cowboy boot limp. The absence of a score is unsettling, which I am sure the none-the-wiser Coen's did purposefully, and most likely was a contributing factor to their Oscar takeover. Of course, there is Javier's incredible hairdo to mention, but I'll let you make the call on that one, friend-o.

Because I am a pessimist, I often fear that my world of cinema/musical bliss will end prematurely with one word: Timbaland. Granted, the man is a very talented musical producer, but could you imagine watching Almost Famous during the "Tiny Dancer" sing-a-long, and all of a sudden being overwhelmed by the word 'hey' being constantly rotated to a synthesized hip-hop beat? I am not sure Sir Elton would appreciate this defection at all, nor would I. Instead, I invest my hope in directors like Robert Rodriguez, who often lay down their own majestic musical score, to save this art form. So, next time you watch a movie, appreciate the time, effort and consideration that went into a 300-pound Tom Cruise mon walking in the finale of *Tropic Thunder*. What an art form, indeed.

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The Blazer is a student-run publication. Opinions expressed in the Blazer do not necessarily reflect the views of the faculty or of the administration of Joliet Junior College.

Once

Track to listen to: "Falling Slowly"

Little Miss Sunshine

Track to listen to: Sufjan Stevens, "Chicago"

The Invisible

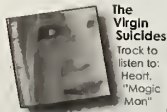
Track to listen to: Coleraine, "...And You Will Know Us By The Trail Of The Dead"

Garden State

Track to listen to: Frou Frou, "Let Go"

Soundtracks to check out

COMPILATIONS TO BLOW YOUR MIND



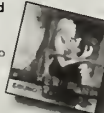
The Virgin Suicides
Track to listen to: Heart, "Magic Man"



Girl Interrupted
Track to listen to: Wilco, "How to Fight Loneliness"



Catch and Release
Track to listen to: Foo Fighters, "Razor"



Wicker Park
Track to listen to: Death Cab for Cutie, "A Movie Script Ending"



Children at Men
Track to listen to: Franco Battiato, "Ruby Tuesday"

GUEST COLUMN

Master Plan demonstrates JJC's value as a resource



President Gena Proulx, Ph.D.

With a changing economy that demands high-skill labor comes the increasing need for workers in high demand, high paying jobs and careers. Colleges and universities have a civic obligation to meet these demands by focusing on technology, modern facilities, economic development, and quality learning environments. Joliet Junior College has embarked on a Master Plan process, which will result in new

facilities and academic programs, so we can continue to provide a quality, affordable education and to contribute to the economic development of the region. In addition, this plan will create approximately 2,000 construction jobs and 6,000 new career opportunities for district residents.

JJC is a valuable resource to its students and the community, as well as area businesses and the local and regional economy. Nearly 75 percent of area employers hired a JJC student at some point over the past 10 years.

Because of this, the college has emphasized shared responsibility for funding the Master Plan, which will be accomplished in part by a student fee, private and not for profit partnerships, and a building bond.

Already, our students have funded projects like the new

campus center and classroom renovations through a \$9 fee increase. This fee will cost a full-time student \$270.

The college has placed an \$89 million building bond question on the Nov. 4 ballot; if approved, the estimated cost to the owner of a \$200,000 home is \$15 per year—that's less than a nickel a day or the cost of a tank of gas.

JJC is committed to being a leader in teaching and learning, the first choice for postsecondary education, and a primary driver of economic development in the region. The college's Master Plan will ensure that we continue to build on our tradition of excellence.

If you have questions about the Master Plan or building bond question, please visit the college's Master Plan Web site at www.jjc.edu/masterplan.

The building bond will fund the following projects:

New Nursing and Allied Health Building - \$45 million

- Illinois is suffering from a shortage of nurses and allied health workers
- This building will allow JJC to continue to train more nurses and allied health workers, especially in new programs such as physical therapy assistant or dental hygiene.

Expansion of Science classrooms and labs - \$20 million

- Natural Sciences/P.E. Department offers key courses for transfer and allied health students
- This expansion will alleviate the shortage of laboratory space and allow JJC to expand its allied health offerings.

New Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management Facilities - \$15 million

- The nationally renowned program prepares students for careers in this growing field.
- A new facility will provide modern teaching kitchens and an opportunity to expand the program.

Expansion of Automotive Technology Program - \$5 million

- The district has one of the region's fastest growing transportation and logistics industries.
- Expansion will allow for more students in this important technical program.

Additional parking - \$4 million

- The Master Plan calls for an additional 1,600 parking spaces.

Letter Policy

The Blazer welcomes and encourages participation by our readers. Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters to verify authenticity. Letters should be 300 words or fewer. We reserve the right to edit for space and content. You may send your letter through inter-office mail, postal mail, email at blazermail@jjc.edu, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office in F-1009.

Continue your life's work. North Central College



Be involved.



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Now that you've made the decision to begin your education at Joliet Junior College, it's never too early to think about where you will continue to find your passion. There are still so many important questions that need to be answered.

- How do I choose classes that will transfer?
- What about scholarships and financial aid?
- What are my internship opportunities?
- Will I be able to study abroad?
- Once I transfer, how long will it take me to complete my bachelor's degree?

You are bound to have questions. Talking to your transfer counselor at North Central College will help you find the answers.

North Central College will be at Joliet Junior College on:

Monday, September 29th, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Tuesday, October 7th, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Wednesday, October 15th, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Attend our Transfer Visit Day on:

Saturday, November 1st, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Be central.



Where you are central.

A Welcome Week & jazz festival rundown

Jenna Miller

Staff Writer

The first week of school can always be a little frantic, but with help from the Student Activities staff, the 2008 Welcome Week had only brought smiles and laughter to all of the students. The festivities started on Wednesday, Aug. 27, on the bridge as well as outside. Between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., students gathered to listen to the music of Paul Willaert while enjoying free food.

Along with the music, there were custom t-shirts being made, a dunk tank where students had the opportunity to submerge their favorite teacher, and the chance to munch on treats such as shaved ice and shake-ups. The activities resumed Thursday, Aug. 28, with

music from the tropics, brought by Od Tapo Iri. Throughout the afternoon free food was still being offered along with the possibility to sit down with a friend to have a free caricature drawn. "Welcome week is so

"Welcome week is so important because it is a chance to show students that we have different things to offer."

Pom Dildoy, director of student activities

important because it is a chance to show students that we have different things to offer. It is a good opportunity to see staff in a different light and show incoming students that they are not in high school anymore," said Pam Dildoy, the director of student activities and student life.

To end a great Welcome Week, Friday, Aug. 29 held the first ever

JJC Music Fest. Starting at 5 p.m., students assembled outside of the D entrance to listen to the bands Capitalist Start, featuring Mike Chambers; Searching 4 Charlie, featuring Geoff Rusch; Johnny Butane & Rythem Flames, featuring Al Hoster; Yard Fulla Cars, featuring Jeff Bradford; and Coleman Grossi, with Jim Coleman. Grilled sandwiches were served, along with beverages and snacks.

The evening came to a conclusion around 11:30 p.m.

"The amount of participation and the overwhelming number of people made this one of the best Welcome Weeks we have had," said Dildoy. By welcoming the incoming students and reuniting the returning students, the Student Activities staff did a superb job contributing in this year's Welcome Week and Jazz Fest.

Plan, From Page 1

building is included as one of the first three projects to be undertaken," said Proulx.

"By relocating these services from their current locations, additional space will be freed up to allow us to expand space for student activities." Students will be able to see the small and large changes being made because of the new campus center that will hold all student services, a new library and centrally located administration offices.

Those services are currently spread around campus at multiple locations. JJC is currently ranked at 22 out of 39 community college districts in Illinois for tuition and fees, which puts the college in the "lower half" in the state for tuition and

fees, according to Proulx. Proulx believes JJC remains a bargain for students.

"When talking about affordability, it is important to remember two things," she said. "First, tuition or what colleges charge, is not the only factor that affects affordability. Secondly, JJC takes great steps to ensure that the college is affordable for low and middle-income students."

She said scholarships and financial aid will help ease the fees and tuition costs for some students. Either way, the Master Plan will move forward but whether or not students will be paying for a large amount of it is what needs to be determined. For more information, contact the Communications and External Relations Office at (815) 280-2406, or visit <http://www.jjc.edu/new/about/college-info/master-plan>.

Shooter drill part of latest campus safety measures

Jim Sheldon

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Due to the recent tragedies at college campuses, Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich signed the Campus Security Enhancement Act on Aug. 22 that required all Illinois colleges and universities to plan and practice for emergencies. A few days prior to the bill being passed, 55 Joliet Junior College staff members took part in an active shooter drill held on the Main Campus on Aug. 20.

The simulated shooting lasted only 20 minutes in a closed-off section of classrooms and hallways in the A and T Buildings. Participants heard the sounds of gunfire and screaming

while making strategic and potentially life-saving decisions in a matter of a few seconds. The drill also provided more hands-on training for the college's police department. One JJC police officer and two campus safety officers acted as the shooters. Chief Pete Comanda felt the drill was a success.

"I feel that the drill went extremely well. I think the major point and benefit to having this drill was that it allowed staff to be put into a realistic setting of a shooting. This enabled them to think about what they might have to do and how they might react in case of a real incident." Comanda wants the staff to come away from the drill

with a few things in mind. "We want the staff to walk away with at least an idea of what they would do in a real event. Any person who has at least a basic survival plan is more likely to survive one of these events than a person who has not thought about it at all." JJC has set aside more than 2 million dollars to begin new and existing safety measures on campus.

During this past summer all exterior emergency phones were replaced with new blue light phones, while additional interior emergency phones were added. All classrooms and lecture hall locks were replaced with interior thumb locks which allow students

and staff to lock themselves into the rooms in case of an emergency. A text messaging system to notify people in case of an emergency was also added. Comanda added, "We have a new camera plan that, when completed late this year, will mean we will have nearly 200 new cameras that are Internet Protocol addressable and remotely viewable. We have purchased new Starcom police

radios which will allow our officers to communicate with other first responding agencies in case of a major event."

JJC already has an all-hazards emergency response plan for incidents that occur on its campuses and it also has an Administrative Emergency Response Plan. These plans are required under federal and state laws.



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NEWS BRIEFS

JJC Earns National Award for Budget Presentation

JJC has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award—the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting—from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the current fiscal year.

To receive this award, according to the GFOA, institutions must satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines assess how well the budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device.

This is the 36th consecutive year that the college's operating budget has been balanced. The total operating budget is \$66,519,600, an 8.8 percent increase from the last fiscal year. This budget reflects JJC's strategic plan, the document that outlines the goals and priorities of the college.

Student Leadership Institute

The Honors Program and Office of Student Activities have collaborated on a Student Leadership Institute for all JJC students. These sessions are free and will include lunch. Topics are ones that will benefit students by discussing success skills but also will benefit them as a future or current employee. Contact CSA or Honors Program for a copy of the brochure. Attendance at two sessions qualifies the student to apply for the Student Leadership Scholarship. Sessions are Friday September 26, 2008–October 10, 2008 12 p.m.–1:30 p.m. in J-206. Information on that scholarship is available in OSA.

Give the Gift of Life...Donate Blood

Donate Blood during the American Red Cross Blood Drive on Sept. 29th from 9:00-3:00 on Center Bridge. Appointments can be made by calling 815-280-2434. Walk-ins will be accepted.

Domestic Violence Week

Domestic Violence Awareness Week will be held on Oct. 7-8, 2008 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the cafeteria. The Clothesline Project will be displayed outside of the cafeteria on both days. On Oct. 8th, a panel of professionals working in the Domestic Violence field will be on hand to raise awareness and discuss services available to victims and families.

Will County Regional Job Fair to be Held Oct. 8

The Will County Regional Job Fair will be held in the JJC Renaissance Center ballroom on Oct. 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Around 80 employers are expected to attend, with jobs in manufacturing, security, clerical, healthcare, distribution, and more. Job seekers are encouraged to dress professionally and bring resumes. Check out the Will County Workforce Systems Resource Room at 214 N. Ottawa St., Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for help in completing and updating your resume. Will County Workforce Systems will also offer a resume workshop at 214 N. Ottawa St. on Monday, Oct. 9, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. for resume critiques as well as their Mobile Learning Center on the day of the fair to complete/update your resume.

For more detailed information, contact the Workforce Services at Will County at (815) 727-4444, ext. 113 or 118.

Musica Viva Series Faculty Recital Oct. 12

The Fine Arts Department will present the second Musica Viva Series Faculty Recital of the semester by Dr. Thomas Uley, saxophone, and Daniela Broderick, piano, on Sunday, Oct. 12, at 3 p.m. in the Fine Arts Theatre on the Main Campus. Admission is free.

Students and staff take a stroll down Mainstreet

Kelise Lofdohl
Staff Writer

With seventy tables set up, JJC offered students the opportunity to get involved in different activities, clubs, and departments. The decision to hold off with Mainstreet until the third week of school gave students the chance to be comfortable with their schedule and see if they had any free time to join an organization.

Offering popcorn, cookies,

apple cider, and mini giveaways, Mainstreet featured many different clubs and organizations including the Vet Tech Club, the Native American Club and the Pagan and Wiccan Club, to name a few.

Two door prizes were also offered, a digital voice recorder and a digital photo frame. In order for students to have had a chance to win one of those prizes, they had to complete a bingo card by visiting the different tables.

Once a student had completed and turned in their card, they were given a free t-shirt and the opportunity to win one of the two prizes.

Mainstreet is repeated every semester for incoming students.

"New students and returning students can have an opportunity to see a snap shot of life outside the classrooms of JJC," said Pam Dilday, director of Student Activities and Student Life.

Job, From Page 1

four-year universities do not offer job fairs to assist students in finding employment while attending college. The universities usually focus on targeted job fairs for their graduating seniors."

JJC fortunately does both. September 17 featured the fourth annual Grundy County Regional Job Fair which "strived to make 'Career Connections' between employers and job seekers," said Workforce Development Coordinator, Angelica Alving in her press release.

Some of the companies offering part-time positions, including 1st Choice Temporary Service Inc., a temp agency, returned on the 17th with full time positions available for graduating

JJC students. There were over 30 local businesses from within a 30 mile radius of JJC presenting job opportunities and information for students seeking employment.

Alving comments, "Our expectation for every job fair is to make a connection between local employers and job seekers. Given that JJC's community is comprised of both traditional and nontraditional students, local employers will afford a wide array of experience, availability and opportunity."

Students had a chance to apply and interview briefly with employers from Grundy and the surrounding counties. This year differed from years past, as per request of the students, the job

fair was moved from an earlier time to a later time and featured a representative from the Illinois Department of Employment Security.

The IDES representative was available throughout the event to assist job seekers who wished to register for Illinois Skills Match, a no-cost internet job matching system.

Alving explains that the event was an overall success.

"We've received great feedback from both employers and applicants each year, so although we aren't able to follow-up with each job seeker, we feel that the job fair is fitting many needs based on what we've heard."

INTERESTED IN GETTING SOME PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN JOURNALISM? CALL THE BLAZER AT 815-280-2313 OR EMAIL BLAZERMAIL@JJC.EDU TO ASK ABOUT GETTING INVOLVED WITH THE STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER.

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ARE YOU A REGISTERED VOTER?

Jeff Koop
Staff Writer

With the 2008 presidential election scheduled to take place on Nov. 4, 2008, many young students will have the opportunity to cast their vote for the first time. However, that chance may pass many students up. JJC student Becca Stern says, "I haven't even figured out how to register to vote."

The answer for JJC students is simple: you can register on campus. To successfully register, see below for times and locations. The most popular way for young people to register is with sites such as www.rockthevote.com, which make it easy and appealing for young people to register. Rock the Vote uses popular culture and music to excite the population into voting. Celebrities such as Sheryl Crow, Soulja Boy, and Christina Aguilera support it. There's a link at the top of the website that will guide a new voter through the registration process.

It's also possible to register to vote at driver's license facilities, at local town halls, or with a deputy registrar. Some counties even hold voter registration at public schools. Contact your local village hall or visit www.elections.il.gov for more information.

Once registered, it's required to re-register every time the voter moves or changes addresses. If a student is planning to move away for college, they can either re-register to vote at their new address or they can vote absentee. Absentee voting is usually conducted by mail, before the Election Day. If you desire an absentee ballot, contact your local election official. Registration closes 28 days prior to an election in Illinois. Therefore, to participate in the 2008 presidential election, registration must be completed by Oct. 6.

Voter registration will be taking place on the Main Campus on the following dates:

Sept. 22, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., South Bridge
Sept. 23, 3 - 6 p.m., South Bridge
Sept. 24, 10 a.m. - Noon, South Bridge
Sept. 29, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., South Bridge
Sept. 30, 3 - 6 p.m., South Bridge
Oct. 1, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Concourse
Oct. 2, 10 a.m. - Noon, South Bridge
Oct. 3, 9 a.m. - Noon, South Bridge
Oct. 6, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., South Bridge
Oct. 7, 3 - 6 p.m., South Bridge
Registration is open to the college community. To successfully register, you must have one of the following forms of identification:
a valid driver's license with your current address on it or state ID
copy of a current utility bill
bank statement
government check
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Professor spotlight

Johnnie Johnson to students: Stay positive and work hard

Nicole Zwartz

Copy Editor



Johnnie Johnson

Working for JJC since 1990, professor Johnnie Johnson is an experienced and talented contribution to the school. Earning her major in Sociology and minor in Psychology at Illinois State University, Johnson was awarded the Sociology Department Award of Academic Excellence in 1980 from ISU, and received Outstanding Adjunct Teacher Award Recipient, from JJC, in 1997.

Her interest in sociology began at an early age when her curiosity broadened through the books she read. Mr. Theil, her high school sociology teacher, connected the dots and Johnson commenced her extended education.

Johnson moved to the Joliet area when she was 25, replied to an advertisement in the newspaper for an administrative position at JJC, and has been a part of the college ever since.

The courses that Johnson is currently teaching are Comparative Religion, Marriage and Family, Cultural Diversity and Introduction to Sociology. She believes that students who want to take her classes should be serious about learning, but it should be enjoyable, as well.

"I just wanted to teach," said Johnson about her choice to apply at JJC. "JJC is a good school and a good place to work. Continuity is important and satisfying; I never thought about teaching anywhere else."

Johnson is involved in the Curriculum Committee, representing social sciences, which plans the courses offered and keeps courses up to sufficient standards.

According to Johnson, students attending JJC should calculate the time, sacrifice and energy college life requires of them.

"Go to every class," said Johnson. "If you miss one day, just to miss a day, it will knock you off track." She emphasizes that every student can accomplish their goals if they stay positive and do not give up.



Megan Morse and Alex Vasiliadis looking at the opportunities at Maimetreat on Sept. 17. See page 4 for story.

A new theater season starts

Kim Saltan

Copy Editor

The Joliet Junior College Fine Arts Department kicks off the 2008-2009 theater season this fall with four productions that will celebrate the 100 year anniversary of theater at the college.

The year will start off with *The Nerd* by Larry Shue on October 2-5, 2008 that will be directed by assistant professor Tammy Perkins.

Biloxi Blues by Neil Simon will follow it on November 13-16, 2008 directed by professor Zachary Bloomfield.

On February 26-28 and March 1 of 2009, the book *Godspell* by John-Michael Tebelak will be adapted as a musical with new music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz. Staff member and theater manager Nicki Blowers will direct the production.

Landford Wilson's *The Rimers of Eldritch*, directed by professor Clay Kirkland, will conclude the season on April 23-26.

Also a note for *Godspell*, the accompanist is Daniela Broderick, the new assistant professor of Music and the vocal director is adjunct instructor of Music, David Nuccio.

Performance times are Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Season tickets are now on sale for \$20 for general public, \$12 for senior citizens and additional discounts are available for JJC students, staff and children. Individual tickets are \$8 for general public, \$5 for JJC faculty, staff, senior citizens, high school students and college students that do not attend JJC and \$3 for JJC students.

Auditions for the fall productions have already taken place but *Godspell* auditions

will be December 18 from 6-9 p.m. and December 19 from 3-6 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. All interested should please prepare 16 bars of music from a classic musical, with the exception of *RENT* stated Blowers. Auditions for *The Rimers of Eldritch* are February 5-6, 2009 with times to be announced.

As part of a continuous community service project, audience members are encouraged to bring any canned or boxed food or any type of personal product to be exchanged for a coupon that is redeemable for a free bakery, punch or coffee treat at the concession stand.

"We hope that we have a season that entertains, challenges and educates our audience," said Blowers.

For additional information, contact Nicki Blowers at her email nblowers@jjc.edu or check out the JJC website.

Yoga: more than a workout

Cate Zieba

Staff Writer

April Booras teaches between four and six classes a day at Joliet Junior College, including yoga, pilates, nordic walking, and spinning. When she's not teaching, she enjoys kayaking, skiing, being outdoors and attending fitness classes.

She hasn't always enjoyed such an active lifestyle. As a child, she was "sickly" and couldn't afford to take a fitness class, though she always wanted to. She got into teaching so she could take classes for free.

"My motto is H.O.P.E.," she says, "Helping Other People Exercise."

It shows when you take her class. She takes time to walk around the room, adjust peoples' postures and offer words of encouragement. You don't feel like you're in competition with anyone, simply challenging your body and doing the best you can.

The benefits of yoga include increased flexibility, balance, strength, and endurance, as well as a clear mind and sense of well-being.

When Kim Wright began practicing yoga three years ago, she did it to get some exercise and tone her muscles. An added

benefit was mental relaxation.

"It really helped me work through my [17-year-old] daughter's pregnancy," she says.

Yoga calms the minds of practitioners by making them focus on their breath and sensations in their body, releasing them from the stream of thoughts usually flowing through their goal-oriented minds. Stillness is a luxury many in the Western world don't allow themselves.

Ryan Fugett has been doing yoga for 3 weeks and he's already reaping the benefits.

"I notice when I lift weights, I'm a lot stronger."

Contrary to popular belief, yoga is not exclusively for women. There are a growing number of men included in the group of people that pack the small room twice a week. The participants vary in age, gender and fitness goals, but they frequently leave in the same state: sweaty, sore and energized from doing something positive for their health.

There are many types of yoga, ranging from intense Bikram, or "hot yoga," that is done in a heated room, to more meditation based practice. Booras' class is "fitness yoga," fast paced with minimal relaxation time. When the final relaxation pose does come, everyone is grateful!

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No need to be under the influence to see Pineapple Express

Ally Flanary

Staff Writer

Pineapple Express is a brilliant collaboration including a trio of exceptionally funny actors. You do not need to be under the influence to enjoy this flick. Three people who met during a 'business deal' go on a hilarious journey which ultimately results in a long term friendship. This new age 'stoner' flick is full of comical events where everything that could possibly go wrong does.

Dale Denton, a process server played by Seth Rogen, starts a normal day dressing up in different costumes to fool people into admitting they are themselves so he can serve them with unwanted legal documents.

Later in the day he stops at his dealer Saul Silver's house, played by James Franco, and picks up a new strain of marijuana called "Pineapple Express." Saul says the weed is so rare "it's almost a shame to smoke it."

When evening rolls around Dale Denton is back to serving papers. He is at his final stop of the night when he witnesses a murder. Dale sees a "lady cop" played by Rosie Perez, and a drug lord played by Gary Cole, shoot the Chinese dealing competition in cold blood.

Dale freaks out when he sees the murder and makes a noisy exit



Seth Rogen and James Franco in *Pineapple Express*

causing the murderers to see him leave. He also accidentally leaves behind a joint roach filled with "Pineapple Express," which the murderers find and recognize. "I saw them see me see them shoot the guy!" Dale screams at Saul

when he busts into his apartment after scrambling from the scene of the crime. The two rush to disappear and contact the only one who knows they have the rarest of all weed, the middle man Red played by

Danny McBride. These three men continue on from there running from gangsters and helping each other every step of the way in a series of unfortunate events.

Director David Gordon Green and producer Judd Apatow show

a definite knack for side splitting comedy. This raunchy, profane, highly entertaining movie is rated R and received four stars from critics. It's a definite go see if you enjoying crude humor and endless laughing.

Burn is 'Another voluntary vomit inducer'



Brad Pitt after finding a disk containing the memoirs of a CIA agent.

Mike Noonan

Staff Writer

Burn After Reading is a sickening social commentary on an opportunistic America, starring a middle-aged single woman striving for the shallow, pointless, skin deep, surgically augmented notion of physical beauty. A "freethinking" man

(John Malkovich) who is struggling to find a new path in life after leaving a career in the CIA, is attempting to write an account of his experiences in the organization, when he crosses paths with a fitness center employee (Frances McDormand) who will do anything in her power, including blackmail, to acquire the money to fund several cosmetic surgical procedures in order to improve her love life. After the

hideous car wreck of a motion picture, *No Country for Old Men*, the Coen brothers have delivered yet another voluntary vomit inducer, requiring declaration of sainthood for the moviegoer who is able to sit through the initial 20 minutes. *Burn After Reading* is a guaranteed stay in and save the gas money cinematic display of the amount of garbage directors can push with the right width on their pocket books.

Vampires give you the 'Peeps'

Jez Layman

Staff Writer

This year, vampires are popular in literature, but with all the hype over *Twilight*, other vampire novels are lost in the shuffle. One such brilliant novel is *Peeps*, by Scott Westerfeld.

Westerfeld puts a new spin on the classic vampire story. Forget all the folklore about crosses and silver bullets; this isn't a mythological kind of story. It's about a parasite.

The parasite works a little bit like an STD--no biting of necks necessary. Some of the old tales about vampires are explained by Westerfeld. The parasite changes a person's perceptions of the world and causes them to hate the interests of their pre-peep days; such as crosses, if they were religious.

The main character, Cal, is a carrier for the parasite--someone who has it, but isn't affected except for increased strength and heightened senses. It's Cal's job to find other "peeps" and capture them before they cause any more harm or spread the disease further.

His main target is Morgan, the woman who gave him the parasite, but along the way he meets Lacey, a girl who becomes involved on the investigations with him. But it's a little hard to concentrate on the mission when the parasite wants Lacey too, adding a little romantic conflict to the story.

The plot is well thought out, interesting and suspenseful. And for the life science geeks, the even numbered chapters are about real life parasites. These chapters add to the story and make things easier to understand, but if you have a weak stomach, it is advised to skip these chapters. They can get a little disturbing and are not integral to the plot.

Part science fiction, part non-fiction, this book will make you rethink everything you have known about vampires up until now, and make you fall in love with them all over again. Westerfeld has a great writing style and creates characters you that one can relate to and will remember. This book is recommended to those who love vampires, science fiction or just want a good, quick read. If you like *Peeps*, try the companion novel: *The Last Days*.

The future of film is changing

Zager Wordlaw

Staff Writer

On Aug. 29, *Babylon A.D.* was released to the public, starring Vin Diesel and co-starring Michelle Yeoh. While some moviegoers were anxious to contribute their time to see the movie, a pissed off director was questioning the way the movie turned out.

French director Mathieu Kassovitz (director of 1995's *La Haine*) discredits his own movie in a blog on amctv.com, stating, "I never had a chance to do one scene the way it was written or the way I wanted it to be. The script wasn't respected. Bad producers, bad partners, it was a terrible experience."

Vin Diesel also contributed his view on the film, noting that the film was cut to a 93 minute movie with 70 minutes of film reportedly cut.

Vin Diesel said jokingly, "Am I even in the movie any more, or am I on the cutting room floor?"

Based on the book, *Babylon Babies* by Maurice Georges Dantec, *Babylon A.D.* is the film adaptation. Kassovitz intended the film to follow a premise involving geopolitics which alluded to the idea that our children are the future of the planet. However, he was disappointed that his meaningful film was instead

altered by Fox studios. A debate currently rages over whom to blame for the horrible film, the director or FOX.

Arnon Conrad, a student at JJC said, "I believe that FOX should be blamed for taking all of the director's creative control. The studio is at fault here for not

will upset over film alterations.

Some moviegoers have been describing the movie as seemingly unfinished or confusing.

Some observers expressed concern that studios would attempt to take more control over a director's creativity in the future.

much money as possible."

Money is a key point in making a movie possible. Although a director may have a great idea for a movie, the battle for control over the creative process has been going on between producers and directors since the beginning of Hollywood. Some take the

has more power. Like with stock ownership in a company."

It can go both ways though. For example, Peter Jackson, creator of the Lord of the Rings trilogy, had 100 percent control over the movie because of his earlier success.

Jackson was given the opportunity to go to New Zealand to film the trilogies, have full control of his creative ideas and have the time to process those ideas.

Adam Heinebreich, JJC Wordcater adviser, believes that the director should have control and movie companies who decide to take action in an incident like this should stay out of the creative process.

With the director discrediting his own movie and Vin Diesel not enjoying the outcome either, Heinebreich believes that producers should respect the artist.

In my view, it isn't right for a creative idea to be taken from the director. But since films do involve large amounts of money, some of the control should be taken by the producer, especially if the film has a high risk factor of flopping.

It all depends on the level of risk taken with a movie, but to me taking a risk can be either your last opportunity or the beginning of something new.



Photo Courtesy of Fox Searchlight Pictures

allowing Kassovitz to expand the horizons of *Babylon A.D.*

Conrad said that if FOX did this to Kassovitz there is no telling how many other directors FOX

Thelma Arevalo, a JJC student, said, "I believe it's not a major problem yet, but it is growing. I think creativity is being put aside for the need to make as

position that the producer should have more control.

Alex Osorio, another JJC student, said, "I believe whoever has or pays the most for a movie

A comedy with a fresh face

Matt Sheehan

Staff Writer

Brandon T. Jackson is causing some rumbles in Hollywood.

The young hip-hop comedian has joined Hollywood A-listers Ben Stiller, Jack Black and Robert Downey, Jr. in the summer comedy blockbuster *Tropic Thunder*.

Also written and directed by Stiller, *Thunder* is about a group of actors filming the most expensive

Vietnam war movie ever, only to be duped into being dropped in a real jungle, only to be threatened by drug producers—still under the guise that they were filming a movie. Jackson plays Apla Chino, a rapper-turned-actor that stars in the film-within-a-film.

In August, Jackson sat down with college journalists to promote the film.

Landing the role wasn't easy for Jackson, who was thought to be too young for the part.

"I auditioned 15 times," Jackson said. "DreamWorks didn't believe I could do it, not my talent, but my age wouldn't work right."

Jackson was taken aback once he received a call from Stiller.

"I got a call from Ben, and he said, 'Would you like to come to the movie?'" Jackson said. "I told

him, 'Don't be lying,' but Ben said 'No, you're the right one for the part.'"

Soon, Jackson found himself on set with Stiller, Black, Downey and other supporting cast members like Nick Nolte and Bill Hader. A relative newcomer to films—small parts in *This Christmas* and *Roll Bounce*—Jackson found fitting in a challenge.

"I was the odd man out, the youngest on set," he said. "I would talk about different things that they couldn't relate to. It was

one day and was talking with Downey thinking he was actor Don Cheadle

Jackson—"the real black person" on set, as he referred to himself during the interview—saw the satire rather than the racial undertones that ran the risk of emerging during the film, a la playing the Richard Pryor to Gene Wilder in black face in *Silver Streak*.

"I did feel like I was the one justifying the movie," Jackson said. "Without me, we would've been shut down."

Jackson said some scenes he asked for a cut, asking to scale back certain lines of dialogue to avoid the potential racial tones and elusions. However, Jackson feels that each character was lampooned in one way or another.

"That's the best thing about the movie," he said. "Everybody got hit. Everybody got justified"

Jackson had nothing but praise for his co-stars.

"Ben and Jack are geniuses who work hard," he said.

Jackson had especially high kudos for Downey's performance, stating it as one of his favorites of the year.

"These are the two best performances of the year: Robert Downey, Jr. and Heath Ledger [in *'The Dark Knight'*]," Jackson said. "One's in black face, one's in white face."



Photo Courtesy of Columbia Pictures



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Amanda Rottschalk

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Wolves with high expectations

Josh Green

Staff Writer

The Joliet Junior College men's soccer team began their season on Aug. 22, with a 1-1 tie against a tough opponent in Moraine Valley Community College. JJC is constantly showing that soccer is a game of high intensity, and the team's obvious skills are proof of all the hard training they put in everyday.

After the first game did not end with a victory, JJC was determined to finish every last opponent they faced for the rest of the season. The Wolves tore through their next four opponents in impressive fashion. They began their streak with the destruction of Waubesa Community College on Aug. 26. They stomped up and down Waubesa CC's field untouched ending the game with a 6-0 shutout.

Three days later the Wolves hosted Delta College (MI), and picked up their second win of the season with a 2-1 victory. Goalkeeper Shaun Etherington showed how to frustrate opposing offensive players ending up with four key saves. The Wolves probed their first NAC conference victory over Harper College 2-1 on Sept. 3. Matt Philbin scored both goals for the team.

JJC secured their fourth win of the season over Kankakee CC by a score of 9-1 on Sept. 5.

Despite the solid 4-0-1 start, the Wolves dropped three straight games. The losses came against Prairie State College, the College of DuPage and Triton College. Head Coach Cristobal Trillo has entered his seventh year as the leader of the JJC men's soccer team with a long list of accomplishments. Trillo states that he has high expectations from his group this year, only because they are already playing at such a high level.

"My soccer squad of 20 players possesses all the qualities of a championship team; they are very responsible and dedicated to the game. This is a very reliable and durable team, the best group I've had in six years as the head coach," said Trillo.

JJC's record sits at 4-3-1 overall and 1-2 in the NAC. Their next home game is against Carl Sandburg College on Sept. 26.



Sophomore defender Brett Vinnack tries to clear the ball against Harper College. The Wolves won the game 2-1.

Photo by Mike Deming

Lady Wolves begin under Peterson

Jacob Boersma

Staff Writer

Well it is a new semester at JJC and do you know what that means? A new season for all of the fall sports and that includes women's volleyball.

After finishing with a 15-20 record last year, the Lady Wolves

are looking for a little redemption and to once again become a major power in the NJCAA.

The team has not been in the top 25 since 2003 when they finished in the top 10. However, new coach Jennifer Peterson is looking to change that.

Coach Peterson comes into JJC having not coached since 2004 at Lincoln-Way Central

High School. She seems very optimistic about this year's team.

"The girls are really starting to mesh together and are becoming one unit," said Peterson. Teamwork, just like in all sports, is one of the most important aspects of the game. Coach Peterson knows a lot about teamwork. Peterson played at North Carolina State University

with her twin sister Nicole Rausch, whom is also a coach for the Lady Wolves this season.

This year's squad is led by sophomore setter Katlin Soto, and sophomore outside hitter Mary Sesol, as well as standout sophomore outside hitter Kirsten Rueck.

Coach Peterson has her hands full, however. Some of the girls

on this year's team do not have as much experience as in the past. Peterson dispelled her worry by mentioning the girls "have a very strong work ethic."

Having a strong work ethic can go a long way in sports, and Coach Peterson hopes that it will work out for the girls at the end of the season. The Lady Wolves are off to a 3-10 start this season.

Sports

Wolves prepare for conference play

Jake Widlowski
Sports Editor

The Joliet Junior College football team has entered 2008 with high expectations and a new coaching staff.

JJC had a successful 2007

season that included a 10-2 record, a Midwest Football Conference Eastern Division championship and a bowl championship.

Jeremy Richardson takes over for the Wolves as the new head football coach in 2008. Richardson was an assistant for JJC last season under former head coach Tom Minnick. Richardson also played football for JJC during his freshman and sophomore years of college. He is eager to return to his alma mater and begin his head coaching career.

"I am very excited to come back to JJC and coach. This football program is already at a great plateau right now and I just want to add my mark to it as well," said Richardson.

Some of the key returning defensive players from a season ago include Trey Jackson, P.J. South, Anthony Echols and Devin Mack. On the offensive side the Wolves return Teray Whisby, Tim Huguley, DeAndre Haynes, Antwain Wooden, Kyle Weber, Brandon Williams, Kyle Powell, Marquis Harmon and redshirt quarterback Chris Walley.

Just three games into the season, the Wolves already find themselves under .500, with a 1-2 record.

In the season opener, JJC lost to Harper College 45-14. Standout wide receiver Teray Whisby, led the Wolves in receiving with



Photo By Mike Diercks

JJC's defensive linemen catch their breath during a dead ball against Harper College on Aug. 30.

108 yards. However, JJC lost the turnover battle and Harper capitalized on them for the win.

The second game of the year brought JJC their first win in 2008. The Wolves snuck by the College of DuPage in an exciting 23-17 overtime victory.

Mother Nature was the biggest opponent for the Wolves in the third game of the season. In what is now known as the "Mud Bowl" JJC lost to Iowa Central Community College 8-3 in a game played at JJC's practice field due to poor field conditions at Memorial Stadium, where the Wolves usually play their home games. Both teams had to deal

with the heavy rainfall and poor field conditions, but Iowa Central was able to capitalize on some mistakes and came away with a narrow victory.

JJC's schedule isn't going to get any easier in the coming weeks. The Wolves will play a conference rival in six out of the last seven games, including a big matchup against Grand Rapids Community College.

"Grand Rapids should be a quality team by the time we face them at the end of the season," said Richardson.

The Wolves will host North Iowa Area Community College this Saturday at 6 p.m.



Photo By Mike Diercks

Running back Tim Huguley looks for room to run during the Aug. 30 game against Harper.

Lady Wolves off to strong start

Nathaniel Wong
Staff Writer

The Joliet Junior College women's soccer team is hunting for a conference title in 2008. Fresh off a conference championship game appearance last season, the Lady Wolves are looking to finish the job this year.

"Our overall goal is to win the conference and the regional championship," said new head coach Gino Di Nardo.

Di Nardo was the men's assistant soccer coach last year and was part of two Region IV championships with the Wolves.

If the early part of this season is any indication, the Lady Wolves are well on their way to another championship game appearance. The Wolves currently have a 4-

2 record, including wins over conference rivals the College of DuPage and Harper College.

So far this season, score first and win, has been the trend. In the three games in which the Lady Wolves have scored first, they have won all three.

The two main reasons for the Wolves' early season success are freshman goalie Michelle Del Sarto and freshman forward April Kutchinski.

According to Di Nardo, Del Sarto has defended the goal well and has averaged 10 saves per game.

Kutchinski is another reason the Lady Wolves have had a strong start to the season. The team holds Kutchinski in high regard, and calls her the Ronaldo of women's soccer. She has scored seven goals in six games.

The Wolves don't depend entirely upon these two players,

however. The fifteen women that made the team are the best that JJC has to offer. The rest of the team "works hard and plays smart," which can sometimes make up for a lack of talent.

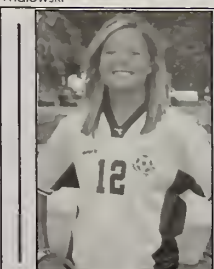
The Lady Wolves are currently on a six game home stand, and will end September with a road game against Moraine Valley Community College.

MALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

By Jake Widlowski



Sophomore running back Tim Huguley had an exceptional game in the Wolves' first win of the season over Midwest Football Conference rival the College of DuPage on Sept. 6. Huguley rushed for 60 yards and added a touchdown on the ground in the 23-17 overtime win. On the season, Huguley has 169 rushing yards including one rushing touchdown and one receiving touchdown.



Lincoln-Way Central graduate April Kutchinski had 3 goals in a 5-3 win over South Suburban College on Aug. 27. Kutchinski added another goal in a narrow 2-1 victory over N4C opponent the College of DuPage. For the season she has seven goals, three assists and has led the Lady Wolves to a 4-2-1 record overall.

Joliet Junior College BLAZER

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Barack Obama has a sizable lead over John McCain with Election Day less than three weeks away

MCCAIN

Jeff Kapp
Staff Writer

After leading in the polls after the Republican National Convention, John McCain now finds himself trailing Barack Obama by 11 percentage points according to the latest Gallup poll. McCain has been struggling to gain ground as the economic crisis spreads.

McCain, born Aug. 26, 1936, served in the military during the Vietnam War where he was held a prisoner of war from 1967-1973. When he returned home and started a life in politics, he was elected into the U.S. House of Representatives in 1982 and then elected into the Senate in 1986 by the state of Arizona where he is still currently serves.

McCain is a conservative and refers to himself as a "maverick" politician and as the "straight talk" candidate. Even though he holds many of the same ideas as other right-wingers, such as pro-life and anti-gay marriage stances, McCain strongly holds non-conservative positions on global warming, immigration and certain other major issues.

As Senator of the border state Arizona, McCain has had experience with border control. He believes that America needs to secure its borders in a timely manner, while ensuring that families are reunited and are treated humanely. He expects that all illegal immigrants should follow the legal path to citizenship.

One heated topic of debate, due to rising gas prices, has been offshore drilling. McCain, agreeing with Bush, is in favor of lifting the offshore drilling ban. He believes that the positive results of lifting the ban will outweigh the negative environmental consequences. McCain supports expanding domestic oil and natural gas exploration, while investing in clean, alternative sources of energy for America's future.

For the majority of his campaign, McCain has been running a negative operation. He has accused Barack Obama of being nothing more than a celebrity, inexperienced and unfit to be President of the United States.

McCain has been running ads linking Obama to his former pastor, Rev. Wright, and William Ayers, a former member of a left-wing radical group accused of attacking government buildings in the '70s.

OBAMA

Ally Flanary
Staff Writer

According to the latest Gallup poll, Barack Obama has expanded his lead over John McCain to 11 percentage points, his largest lead since the polls were first taken.

Obama, born Aug. 4, 1961, earned his law degree from Harvard in 1991. He worked in Chicago as a civil rights lawyer and also taught constitutional law. He later served eight years in the Illinois State Senate. In 2004, he became the third African American since Reconstruction to be elected to the U.S. Senate.

Obama has many plans of "change" that he is confident will help our economy out of a recession.

As president, Barack Obama will implement a 21st century economic agenda to help ensure that America can compete in a global economy and ensure the middle class is thriving and growing.

Obama is also pushing for a comprehensive national energy policy and has introduced a number of bills to get us closer to the goal of energy independence. He plans to put

a stop to political corruption. Obama is tackling the weapon problems in the world and pushing to stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction and eliminate the genocide in Darfur. He also wants to make healthcare more affordable for everyone.

Obama believes that the efforts to bounce back from 9/11 have been underfunded and ignored. He thinks Homeland security needs to improve, from improving security for our transit systems and chemical plants, to increasing cargo screening in our airports and seaports.

Senator Obama was always against the war in Iraq. Before it began he said that it "was wrong in its conception." He also said that "the invasion would lead to an occupation of undetermined length, at undetermined cost, with undetermined consequences."

Even though the number of seniors has grown over 4.5 times over the course of their lives, Obama wants to help senior citizens to acquire their social security.

"They have tilled our soil, defended our country, taught our children, worked in our factories and raised a new generation to build upon their successes."

News

Domestic violence awareness week

Kim Sallan

Copy Editor

October is domestic violence awareness month so Sherri Morrow, assistant professor of counseling and the Office of Student Activities organized a Domestic Violence Awareness Week that took place on Oct. 7-8.

On Oct. 7, the clothesline project was presented as a display to the campus community outside the cafeteria. The clothesline project is a program that started in Cape Cod, MA, in 1990 to address the issue of violence against women. It is a vehicle for women affected by violence to express their emotions by decorating a shirt. The shirt is then hung on a clothesline to be viewed by others as a testimony to the problem of violence against women.

The exhibit continued thru Oct. 8 with a presentation in J-0006 from 1-2:30 p.m. that consisted of moderator Morrow and a panel of professionals, Groundwork, Will County State's Attorney's Office, JJC Police Department, Dr. Falaah-Kharagham and Marilyn Jones, who were on hand to raise awareness and discuss services available to victims and families. The first domestic violence panel was in the fall of 2005. Its aim is to raise awareness of issues of domestic violence with students and staff at JJC and to provide practical information and resources to assist anyone who has been victimized.

"Many people want to free themselves of an abusive situation but are often too afraid to, or are unaware of the resources available to them

See Domestic Page 5

In This Issue



Fall of Disney p.2



Nick & Norah p.8



Lady Wolves prepare for playoffs p.11



Wolves Football p.12

In response to the economic crisis

As this is written, Congress and the House have passed what was originally a \$700 billion rescue plan for the U.S. economy involving the federal buying of bank mortgages and loans, as well as funds for major U.S. businesses in need of help.

According to the Associated Press, close to another \$100 billion has been tacked on to the already huge sum due to amendments to the original plan providing tax breaks for businesses and the middle class.

This plan was proposed in hopes to free up some of the frozen credit due to large banks failing across the United States and to provide economic stimulus to an economy that is within a recession.

At the Blazer, are sure many students across campus have felt some of the economic hardship in their homes as we have. Yet we don't think the full impact of this crisis has been fully appreciated. If a good plan isn't proposed by Congress than the availability of loans, jobs and aid for students' post-JC will continue to dwindle.

Downsizing, mass layoffs and hour

Cuts have been going on with businesses across the U.S. since our economy was first hit hard by 9/11. This brings up several questions to us at the Blazer. Why has our government waited so long to be drastic now in helping the economy? We would argue that our economy has been declining rapidly since the events of 9/11, yet politicians and the media haven't focused on economic issues until now when we are deeply rooted in the recession. It's as if the media and politicians have been skirting the words depression and recession, denying the truth that America's economy has been failing. So now when the brunt of this failure has hit even the corporate elite, as seen by the failing of so many banks, the government has chosen to respond with a top down approach to revive the economy.

This first calls into question the true motives of some of our

politically or personally to the corporate elite. However, the biggest question this poses is how beneficial will a top down approach be in an America that values its money to the point that companies like Enron are possible and where even in legal businesses, CEO's and trustees are able to line their pockets while their base workers are struggling with poverty?

Thankfully provisions have been provided in the bailout plan to prevent corporate America from being too greedy with the federal hand out. Yet, even those provisions didn't stop the elite members of American International Group (AIG), one of the banks benefiting from the bailout, from having a \$400,000 retreat after receiving their funds from the rescue plan. Perhaps we are wrong at the Blazer in our suspicions with the bailout plan considering we have yet to see it

politicians as many of them have ties

truly in effect.

However, in our own defense, when our economy was at its worst during the Great Depression, John F. Kennedy took a bottom up approach by providing American citizens with good paying federal jobs and tax cuts across the board.

As college students there seems to be little we can do in the face of such a national problem short of being more active in the upcoming election. Otherwise this article leaves on the complacent note that we can either be more politically active or sit back and watch our futures be determined by policies affecting the economy.

All information in this article was taken from several associated press articles. For copies of those articles visit the website of the associated press and search for articles regarding the bail out plan.

Shelley Holmgren

Production Manager

Once upon a time, in a magical kingdom years and years ago, Disney used to withhold a credo of dignity. In our youth, Disney movies captured our imagination, subliminally teaching us moral values, such as seeking guidance in a tree, not allowing vanity to change us into a beast and most essential of all, hakuna matata. However, in this new millennium, the Disney Corporation has lost sight of their roots and now their pupils lie on one perpetual goal: Money. How did Disney spiral down so far? I'll explain, my friends, and may I warn you that Vanessa Hudgens may lie ahead.

I believe this monsoon of disaster began in September of 2005 when Bob Iger preceded Michael Eisner as Disney CEO. Prior to that, there was much scandal around Eisner involving the bureaucracy of the centrally planned company, which ultimately led to the decision to replace him. With his promotion, Iger found abundant opportunities to make the Disney Corporation, which is constantly rivaled against fellow network Nickelodeon, stock soar. In 2006, Disney bought Pixar for \$7.4 billion, a great feat considering that previously Eisner had stirred some bad blood between the two companies. This new fusion brought more Pixar animated films such as *Cars* and *Ratatouille*. This has been a very flourishing relationship and has brought the DIS (NYSE) stock up approximately 28 percent.

Although Disney has cashed in financially with this buyout, the price they'll have to pay is their souls. The traditional hand-drawn animation that Disney used to birth the company is now a whisper of the past. In 2000, fringe success *Home On the Range* was intended to be the final



"traditionally animated" film that Disney developed.

Only one project of hand-drawn animation is in the works for Disney, called *The Princess and the Frog* set for 2009. But of course, who needs to make movies of which the company's foundation was made when the new Pixar films are being spawned every year?

Even more so, Iger tapped into a little piece of information that had the whole company seeing green. According to Alloy Media and Marketing, America's 20 million youth spend \$51 billion of their own money annually and coerce another \$150 billion from their parent's wallets. Now tell me, what is someone supposed to do in this time of a near evident economic recession? Cosh in that, that's what you do, and that's exactly what Iger did with the new fusion of Disney stars and projects. Ladies and gentlemen, I give you Miley, Zac, Vanessa, and the Jonas Brothers - the downfall of all that was genuine about Disney.

Of course, donning the Disney ears does come with a price if you're not willing to play like you're. Former Disney sweethearts Lindsay Lohan and Britney Spears could give a tip or two on how to fall from Disney's graces. Drawing inspiration, *Hannah Montana* star Miley Cyrus, who has been one of Disney's most ample sources of green in the past two years, discovered that the mouse can bite back. Her recent

COMMENTARY

Annie Leibovitz scandalous photo in *Vanity Fair* threw

vicious soccer moms in a bonfire frenzy, a striking blow to the Disney megalomaniacs. It's no secret that you can't spell Miley without 'Money.'

Retail sales for the *Hannah Montana* franchise are expected to reach a total of \$1 billion dollars (700 more Mileys and you have a corporate bailout), this is including her tours, CD and merchandise sales, and the movie deal she has signed for 2009. If that's not consolation enough to condone the starlet, Billy Ray Cyrus is never far along to remind you why stage fathers, especially ones with mullets, are never a good idea. Just ask Jessica and Ashlee Simpson.

Next on the Disney roster of investments are The Jonas Brothers - Disney's poster boys for good, clean, rock & roll, if such a pairing could ever sincerely exist in a sentence. The presence of Disney's golden touch is always eminent. The Jonas Bros' first album, released from Columbia records, only sold a mere 65,000 copies, a hiccup in the pandemonium their first release from Hollywood Records caused (a Disney entity, of course), selling more than a million copies in the first week.

Even the Jonas Bros themselves now have the monetary advantage. Thanks to fabulously warped British comedian Russell Brand, who hosted the VMA's this

year, even more attention has been brought to the boys 'Promise Rings,' which signify their promise to Mom to stay abstinent until marriage. Although this symbol is menially admirable (somewhat unbelievable in my opinion), the only 'promise' I see is that of a profit.

According to Silver Ring Thing, the manufacturer of the rings, the Brothers' endorsements have boosted sales of the ring 113 percent since last year. Too bad for Bristol Palin that her ring never came in the mail.

It goes without saying that the most lucrative of all the Disney spawn has been *High School Musical*, a washed-up, synthesized, vacant of talent, version of *Grease*. When you hear Hudgens strain to sing a melody in these films, it's not the sound of the sampled beats you hear. It's the sound of Walt Disney turning over in his grave.

Even pretty boy Zac Efron has cashed in on this hot mess of a film. For example, on the Forbes' Celebrity 100 List, Efron is ranked 92nd on the list - Tina Fey is 99th. It should be considered blasphemy when a mediocre head of hair makes more money than one of the most talented female comedians of our time (if most of you have seen Fey's rendition of Sarah Palin on SNL, I hope you would agree.)

On the eve of the *HSM 3* release into theaters, a dark cloud looms over the future of this corporate cash machine. I only hope to be shot with a tranquilizer before I have to bear witness to how much money those clowns are going to make. Question - what sound does a mouse make when it sells its soul?

Answer: Ka-ching

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FORBES' CELEBRITY 100

How did Disney's moneymakers rank in?

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- 92 Zac Efron
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- 97 Lauren Conrad
- 98 Vanessa Williams
- 99 Tina Fey

LETTER POLICY

The Blazer welcomes and encourages participation by our readers. Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters to verify authenticity. Letters should be 300 words or fewer. We reserve the right to edit for space and content. You may send your letter through inter-office mail, postal mail, email at blazermail@jjc.edu, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office in F-1009.

Club Announcements

INTERVARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Here's when the intervarsity gets together...

Monday 12pm to 1pm (cafeteria)

- Bible study

Tuesday 12 pm to 1pm (cafeteria)

- Bible study

Wednesday 12 pm

1pm (cafeteria) - Bible study

Thursday 2pm-3pm (Bridge)

- prayer meeting

The head of the JJC intervarsity group is Phil Nordquist, he's also a pastor at Grace Bible Church.

WORDEATER

Word eater is seeking submissions for its next print and e-zine publications due out in December. The editorial staff will accept all forms of written work, art & photography, music, recordings, short films, and multimedia creations for review.

The deadline for submission is October 18th. Please see www.wordeater.org for information and submission guidelines. Word eater is also seeking musical and artistic talent for future events. Contact wordeater@jjc.edu.

Adam J. Heidenreich
Assistant Professor of English

JJC professor praises theater program



Jim Boskin
Professor of English

Having been a season ticket holder at the JJC theatre for many

years, I have been meaning for a long time to praise all involved with it. After seeing *The Nerd* on Oct. 3, I just had to write a note of congratulations. Like almost every show that I have seen on campus, this one was excellent. The actors were perfectly cast and their timing was hilarious. Comedy is so much funnier when seen live than when seen on film. And I don't think I am the only person who felt this way. For the talented actors and their director seemed to inspire the entire audience to non-stop laughter. I eagerly look forward to the next production!

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CORRECTIONS

IN THE EAST ISSUE, IN THE ARTICLE "A NEW THEATRE SEASON STARTS", THE THEATRE DEPARTMENT WAS INCORRECTLY IDENTIFIED AS CELEBRATING ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR. THE DEPARTMENT IS CELEBRATING OVER 100 YEARS OF THEATRE.

Art meets Industry

Shelley Hoimgren
Production Manager

On Sept. 29, Joliet Junior College hosted watercolor artist Donald K. Lake. The discussions, sponsored by the Office of Student Activities, were held at the main campus, in room K-0005, one at 1 p.m. and one at 7 p.m.

Lake's seminar consisted of viewing his *Industry* collection, a series of paintings of factories and industrial sites, as well as a question and answer session.

Such pieces in the collection include "Labyrinth," "Fanfare" and "Havana." Lake, a Kansas native, has recently retired from Parkland College in Champaign, where he taught for more than 30 years. Prior to that, he received both his BFA and MFA from Wichita State University. He is a member of the Honor Society

of Watercolor USA, and has instructed watercolor workshops throughout the country.

According to Lake, his *Industry* collection was inspired by factories in nearly every state east of the Mississippi River, with a special reverence for what the artist refers to as "Smokestack" factories.

He said, "[The factories] which interest me most date from around 1900. Many are no longer functioning, but some are still in active production. I am most interested in the production of basic materials, rather than manufacturing."

Since it is not possible to paint on-site, Lake often relies on photographs and often "combines

elements from several of those photographs with inventions to compose his paintings. Lake said that this was useful for his paintings because it "expresses a correct sense of place, versus an absolutely factual depiction of any one place."

"I want the viewer to insert himself as the actor and consider the setting of the painting as his primary interest."

Donald K. Lake

One of the topics that Lake covered was his use of bold and vibrant color in his paintings. Lake uses the contrast of 'bold dark values as opposed to hot elements, such as molten steel' to give his paintings visual interest. "The drama of these factories

and the dynamic relationships of elements there, including sound, smell, texture, scale and lighting are best expressed with bold pictorial elements," he said.

Another aspect to note of the paintings is that there are no figures present, because according to Lake, a figure often controls the main focus of the painting.

"Instead, I want the viewer to insert himself as the actor and consider the setting of the painting as his primary interest," said Lake.

Lake said the reason he chose to paint industrial settings was because of their inaccessibility and because they are rather unknown to communities. He especially appreciates factories because "once silenced, they often sit for years as a kind of urban ruins of the twentieth cen-

tury. They invite exploration and they are places rich in the texture, forms, and play of light that are the central strands in my work."

Lake also added, "I am interested in having the viewer encounter such places in the formal ways of art, as a rich visual experience."

Those in attendance agreed that the seminar was a great success.

Art professor Gisele Atterbery said, "I was pleased with the attendance and I thought the students' comments and questions following the presentation were perceptive."

Fellow art professor Meaghan Callan also noted that, "his lecture was excellent in its connections to topics I cover in Art 109."

For more information on Lake, and to see the *Industry* collection online, visit his website at www.donlakeart.com.

A supposed curse to the school system

Kot Kostowski
Production Manager

Many may have been a bit weary to see this brown bag presentation after seeing its controversial title. However "a curse to the school system" is actually a quote from the 1916 president of Chicago Public Schools Jacob Loeb, not John Lyons. The presentation covered teachers in the early 20th century, the origins of teachers unions, the situations and conditions before and after collective bargaining and why politicians oppose teachers unions.

According to Lyons, the reason why the formation of teachers unions is a curse, is because teachers unions protect the unit

teachers, teachers want better pay even though they have to bargain with administrators to receive the already small pay they do and the teachers are having a voice in decisions when they did not before.

In the early 20th century, teaching was a low-paid occupation, with lack of sick/vacation pay and health benefits. Just to prove the low pay, janitors were receiving \$1,540 a year in comparison to teachers who were receiving only \$1,500 a year. Last we forget that the Great Depression led to a pay cut of 23 percent, causing teachers to earn even less than they did previous to that.

In addition, only one-third of teachers had tenure (job security) at the time, so the skilled teach-



John Lyons

ers may have gotten laid off for no reason. The reason at the time was breaking some form of rule that was based off of their already long list of rules and regulations

they had to follow.

Teachers across the country were forced to sign contracts that stated they would not join the local teachers union, and if they, in fact, did sign up for the union, they would face large amounts of discrimination and many times would lose their jobs.

Politicians were in a large opposition to teachers unions. The politicians deemed the unions unconstitutional and unprofessional. Teachers were looked upon as public servants, so it was "undemocratic of them to bargain or strike against the public," said Lyons.

On the other hand, collective bargaining rose in 1960. The population finally started to see that unions weren't so bad, stated Ly-

ons. In fact, in 1935, 74 percent of the public was against teachers unions, and this statistic heavily dropped to 28 percent in 1965.

Unfortunately, even though the amount of teachers' union participants peaked in the mid-1940s to the 1950s, it is in a steady decline. The service sector, which teachers unions are in, is a lot harder to unionize, which has led to the drop in participation.

For more information, contact John Lyons at jlions@jic.edu, or read his book *Teachers and Reform*, which is now available, signed, in the bookstore.

Next Blazer--

October 29

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News Briefs

TUNES AT NOON WITH STUDENT TALENT

Join JJC Student, Tim Johnson, on acoustic guitar while you eat your lunch on Center Bridge from Noon-1 p.m. on Oct. 17th. This is the start of a monthly activity featuring student musical talent!

LATIN SWING DANCE

Come and practice Latin dance moves and taste featured cuisines that include the savory culinary delights of Mexico, Puerto Rica and Cuba on October 17-18 in the cafeteria.

KARAOKE

Join the Office of Student Activities on Oct. 21, from 11-1:30 p.m. on the Center Bridge, for another way to relax and have some fun, karaoke style. Ms. Eva will be on hand with her great sound and many songs to choose from. Everyone is free to participate.

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ALCOHOL AWARENESS WEEK OCTOBER 27-30

Join Holistic Wellness for a week of information, activities and more to encourage smart decisions with regards to alcohol use. There will be roundtables, demonstrations and more, from 11:00-1:00 each day.

RECITAL - MUSIC STUDENTS

Selected students who are taking applied music will present a recital on Wednesday, October 29, in the Fine Arts Theater at 11:00 a.m. Admission is free.

DISCOVER JJC (OPEN HOUSE)

At Discover JJC, it's all about you! We invite you to discover the college and see for yourself how much JJC has to offer on November 1 from 10-1 p.m. This is the perfect "one-stop" opportunity to meet the friendly faces that make JJC such a great place, get the info you need to get started as a JJC student, and just take time to enjoy the campus.

PARA FAIR

Have fun on Halloween by having your handwriting analyzed, your palm and face read and much more...ALL FREE...Center Bridge from 10:00am-1:00pm on Halloween.

COMFORT ZONES

FREE soup and hot drinks will be provided by the Office of Student Activities from 5:00pm - 6:30pm on Tuesday and Wednesdays beginning November 4th. Student musicians will be performing during some of the Comfort Zones. Come relax and get some nourishment before your evening classes!

An opportunity at the College Night Fair

Kellie Lofdahl
Staff Writer

Joliet Junior College gives students and parents the opportunity to meet college representatives and acquire admissions and financial aid information by hosting their annual College Night Fair.

With over 125 colleges/universities represented, JJC's College Night is known as one of the largest fairs in the area. These different colleges/universities range from public, private, 2-year, and technical schools like the University of Illinois, Bradley University, the Harrington Institute of Design and Technology and Northern Illinois University. Also, College Night is co-sponsored with 22 area high schools.

Each college will have their own booth, where they will be distributing information based on their institution and answering any questions students may have. Opportunities regarding scholarships will also be available. Every college participating in College Night is there to help students make a great decision and plan for the future. They ask students to remember every institution booth they visit in order to eliminate the colleges they do not like and keep the colleges they do like. No final decisions have to be made. These several institutions are just giving students the chance to visit and obtain important information.

Current, perspective and returning students are all welcomed to join the colleges/universities at this event.

"College Night is a great event

for many students and parents to gather information from different colleges in just one night," said Jennifer Klobudz, Director of Admissions and Recruitment at JJC.

Students have the ability to meet with different representatives and obtain an understanding of their institution. This is a wonderful experience for anyone who attends because instead of visiting one college at a time, students have the ability to visit several. If students are looking to continue their education or start their education, College Night is a brilliant step to take.

This event will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 21 from 5:30-8 p.m. at JJC's Main Campus in the gymnasium and buildings C through G.

Domestic, From Page 1

for assistance," said Morrow.

Groundwork is a program that supports victims of domestic violence to break the cycle of family abuse. She is currently a consultant for victims' services programs both new and established. She was a part of the grassroots and the history of advocacy in Chicago and has more than 20 years experience in victim's advocacy. She has worked for many organizations in the city of Chicago in advocacy, counseling and education.

Morrow has been a member of the counseling department at JJC since 2005. She began her professional career as a court advocate in Chicago 20 years ago, providing support to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence in the Chicago court system.

Work with the Chicago Police Department included a sexual assault protocol. It provided sensitivity training to current officers and new cadets in their work with victims of violent crimes.

"My sincere hope is to raise

awareness of the issues of domestic violence and provide information and assistance for anyone who is currently in a situation where domestic violence is a part of daily life," said Morrow.

For more information on domestic violence visit the groundwork website guardianangelhome.org/gw.html, the clothesline project website, clotheslineproject.org or email Sherri Morrow at smorrow@jje.edu.



—Elizabeth Ragsdale
B.A. in Psychology
student

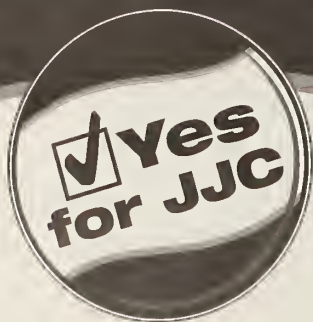
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JJC Culinary Arts Department serves up success

Jenna Miller
Staff Writer

The Joliet Junior College Culinary Arts department has been very successful when entering different competitions and recently there have been numerous awards given to different students and chefs here at JJC. One of the biggest awards received was given to Chef Andy Chlebana for the *National Pastry Chef of the Year*. Chlebana and student Samantha Callanan were both given gold medals in this competition.

Another award was given to

the second place winner for the Student Culinarian of the Year, Ender "Andy" Oktayuren.

"We were so impressed with his skill, professionalism and dedication to being the best! He is going to have an amazing career ahead of him," said department chairman, Chef Michael McGreal.

Along with Chlebana, Callanan and Oktayuren, some other awards were given to Chef Tim Bucci and Chef Kyle Richardson who won gold medals during the Central United States American Culinary Federation Regional

Competition.

The awards given to both the students and the coaches are worked hard for and well deserved. The preparation that is put in is practiced for months prior to the competition.

"It is such an impressive

quality of our students that are on the teams that they all work, go to school full time and still find the time to commit to a minimum of 5 hours per week...sometimes as much as 10 hours per week," said McGreal.

The Culinary Arts and Hos-

pitality Management department is victorious in different competitions every year, making JJC well respected in the food industry.

"I am very proud of our committed students, our outstanding faculty and this top-notch department overall!" said McGreal.

PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Jason Fichtel



Dr. Jason Fichtel

Ally Flannery
Staff Writer

Currently teaching English classes at Joliet Junior College, Dr. Jason Fichtel started his seventh year of teaching this spring. He was born in Aurora and raised in Oswego, IL. After earning his bachelor's and master's degrees in English from Illinois State University he went on to earn his PhD in English from the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque. He moved back to the Chicago area in 2002 and began molding young minds at JJC.

Dr. Fichtel had always

planned on being an educator. As he reflects back he says, "I used to play school—I'd make my sister be my student, and I'd get out the dictionary and make up vocabulary tests for her to take."

Dr. Fichtel wasn't always sure what level of school he wanted to teach. At first he thought high school would be a good start, but when he saw an opening at JJC he jumped at the opportunity to teach somewhere "that valued good teaching."

He urges students to never limit themselves.

"Don't take classes just because you 'need' them...take them because they sound interesting, or because the subject matter fascinates you," Fichtel said when asked about advice for students.

He is an excellent teacher who makes every class exciting. Student's of his say they look forward to English class because of his fun and interesting approach to each lesson. Dr. Fichtel is definitely a talented part of JJC's wonderful teaching staff. He plans to stay on the same track he's on and teach for as long as possible.



Join us for an Open House

Saturday, Nov. 1, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
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STAFF SPOTLIGHT Tyrone Stovall

Nick Damberg
Staff Writer

Most students see him on a daily basis; he is a fixture of Joliet Junior College. Many greet him as they rush to and from their classes and he always has something nice to say in return. His name is Tyrone Stovall, a custodian of the facility service department, and he has been working on campus for 30 years now.

Stovall was born in Mississippi 58 years ago and grew up in Chicago. He moved to Joliet in 1978 and started that August at JJC. He has been living in Channahon now for 14 years. He is a member of JJC's Professional and Personal Development committee, which serves to break down barriers on campus and bring people together from all backgrounds.

One would think that the

students would get on his nerves after so long, but it's just the opposite.

Stovall says he enjoys being around the students and added, "If it wasn't for them [students] we wouldn't have our jobs."

When asked if he had any words of wisdom for the students of JJC he replied, "Go to class, be on time and listen to your instructors because they won't steer you wrong."

"And please flush the toilets and wash your hands," he added.

In his spare time Stovall loves to read genres spanning from science fiction to history. Also a lifelong Chicago Cubs fan, his baseball heroes include Ernie Banks, Billy Williams and Ron Santo.

As for any honor stories in his line of work he said, "Some things you don't want to know and some things you really can't print."

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Banned Book Week wrap-up

Jez Layman

Staff Writer

Banned books week was Sept. 27-Oct. 4th, but banning books is a serious topic that should be acknowledged and fought against all year long.

In the past schools, churches, political groups and many others worked to remove certain books from the shelves so that no one can read them. One such book was F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, which has been challenged and banned time and time again since its publication in 1925. Charges have come against this book in that it is "sexually explicit," but when today's college student compares it with television shows and movies they watch regularly, it is likely to seem relatively harmless.

In the book, Nick Carraway moves to the big city and finds a home in West Egg along the Long Island Sound. His next door neighbor is the lavish and

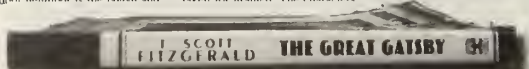
mysterious Jay Gatsby, a man of self-made wealth, but of unknown background. Everyone claims to know Gatsby, but few have any clue as to who he really is. Really, he is simply a man trying to impress the love of his life, Daisy Buchanan (who coincidentally happens to be Nick's cousin). Gatsby dated Daisy before he left to fight in World War I, and when he returned he found out that she had not waited for him, but instead married Tom Buchanan. Tom is an untrue husband with a mistress in the city named Myrtle that everyone, including Daisy, knows about. All of these scandals, and more, are uncovered through the eyes of Nick, who reintroduces Gatsby and Daisy.

This is a story of romantic complications and multiple instances of cheating and adultery, but even more than that, it is a depiction and reflection of life in the Jazz Age of America, during the time of prohibition. Things in Nick's world are always more than they seem and should never be taken for granted. The characters

are life-like and can easily be found in today's society. Everyone knows a Nick or a Daisy, a Gatsby or a Tom. The plot has its twists and turns, keeping the reader interested, and the style is like no other. Fitzgerald is a master writer of his time and of all time and is constantly ranked among the best writers of the 20th century for that reason.

The Great Gatsby is more than just an English assignment. If you read it for a class, I encourage you to read it again so that you can enjoy it without the worry of the next test or assignment hanging over your head. And if you have never read it, I encourage you even more to read this novel, as well as other banned books.

In celebration of banned books, try reading something new and controversial, you might just find a new view on the world, or just simply something you enjoy reading.



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CINEMA SCENE

Choke

Reviewed By Mike Noonan

Choke, a novel by Chuck Palahniuk, the author of *Fight Club*, turned into a big screen story by director, Clark Gregg, is a masterpiece of the cult classic, dark humor genre.

Choke is a story of a man trying to piece together his uniquely estranged life and figure out who he is and where he comes from. It's an absolutely hilarious dark comedy meant for the truly thick minded, a definite must see.

Victor Mancini, played by Sam Rockwell, so eloquently, is a med school dropout on a search to find himself through his mother, numerous sexual escapades with women and through memories of his childhood.

Attempting to acquire enough money to keep his rather deranged mother in a mental institution to care for her and her horrible memory issues, he forces himself to choke on food and then seeks out wealthy people to save him. In order for him to gain their pity, they send him cash which ultimately goes to help his mother.

In playing the ultimate scam artist/sex fiend Sam Rockwell did a bang up job (literally and figuratively) and his character Victor Mancini, despite his rough shell, is able to win your heart with his unbelievably selfless personality.

Given the fact that he is scamming people throughout the movie, one can't help but feel pity for him and his situation.

With the almost freaky cuts following *Fight Club*, *Choke* is a definite breath of fresh air (or dirty air) to see this fall. It is not necessarily the greatest first date movie in the box office for the extreme amounts of nudity may be a tad uncomfortable for some, but all around one of the greater flicks this movie attendee has seen this year.

Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist

Reviewed By Nicole Zwart

Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist is a teen comedy based on two people getting thrown together in a long and adventurous night filled with crazy friends, ex's and the loud, New York indie rock scene.

The story begins with Nick (Michael Cera) nursing a broken heart by sending his ex, Tris, his own mixed CD's (12 to be exact). Norah (Kat Dennings) is an average school girl who is questioning all of her theories of life and becomes infatuated with her friend's ex via his CD's never having met him.

One Friday night, these two opposites become acquainted during Nick and his gay boy band, "The Jerkoffs", show. The escapade initiates after Nick and Norah go in search of "Where's Fluffy", their favorite band, while Nick's friends take Norah's drunk friend, Caroline, home. Everything is going well, in a way, until Caroline wakes up and believes to have been kidnapped and runs away. Then it becomes a chaotic search for not only the band these teens live for, but also for the clueless drunken friend. Despite having nothing in common other than music, Nick and Norah experience awkward moments, but soon find that they like each other.

Cera, like his role in *Superbad*, captures the audience in laughter throughout the film with his sarcastic and funny comments. Some scenes between Norah and Tris were dry and seemed uncomfortable between the actresses, but it does not take away from the hip, smart and definitely relatable storyline. The entire night these characters experience captivates the audience to believe they are following along with these witty and hilarious friends in their journey to find love and music.





Christofer Boeyink

10 GREAT REASONS TO TRANSFER TO ELMHURST

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2 As a transfer student, you're just one of us. About one in three of our students comes to us with experience at another college or university. We understand your academic needs.

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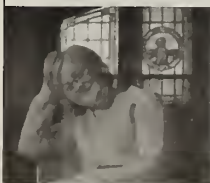
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**Elmhurst
College**

Matt Sheehan
Staff Writer

Simon Pegg sat in a conference room at the Four Seasons Hotel in downtown Chicago admiring the high-class, foot-fall, cylindrical glass bottle of water. Not for its fancy, expensive look but for what was attached to it.

Taped to the side is an inkjet printed photo of him, proclaiming "Welcome to the Four Seasons Chicago, Simon Pegg," almost like a missing child photo on a carton of milk.

"I was thoroughly pleased and slightly weirded out," Pegg remarked.

While he may not be fully known in the mainstream U.S. yet, he is nevertheless recognized from such British works as the cult TV series *Spaced* and revolutionary spoof films like *Shaun of the Dead* and *Hot Fuzz*. Pegg leads the cast of *How to Lose Friends and Alienate People*, a fictionalized adaptation of writer Toby Young's memoir based on his trials and tribulations covering Hollywood for *Vanity Fair* magazine.

Pegg plays Sydney Young, a crass, ambitious and awkward U.K. tabloid editor who is invited by *Sharps* magazine



editor Clayton Harding, played by Jeff Bridges, to join his high-gloss publication, albeit at the bottom of the ladder with fellow writer Alison Olsen, played by Kirsten Dunst.

In the film, Young is amazed by celebrity and those who envelope that universe, wanting to attend all the A-list parties and meet the latest starlets, all while doing outrageous things that set him back more and more with his co-workers.

While Pegg has never encountered such a "tenacious

and obnoxious" reporter, he does admit that such a journalist exists.

"I think there is a kind of correspondent who covers this because he wants to be part of it," he said. "This is the kind of correspondent who will always have a big picture of themselves over their column. There is a weird element of the snake that eats itself with celebrity correspondents."

The problem, Pegg adds are those readers that keep buying such publications.

"People are inclined to

eavesdrop, and they want to spy with impunity," he said. "There's something fun and right about certain elements of it, but it has metabolized into something more sinister and dangerous."

Pegg offers readers' fascinations with the train wreck downfalls of such celebrities as Britney Spears and Amy Winehouse.

"We're seemingly not evolving into regal balls of energy," Pegg said. "We're just killing each other more and there's more disease, more war and more poverty. This has become a crazy diversion."

Pegg's celebrity has mostly been under the radar. He was introduced briefly to American audiences as an IMF analyst who helped Tom Cruise's Ethan Hunt in *Mission: Impossible III*, but he is more widely known for the zombie comedy *Shaun of the Dead* and the action comedy *Hot Fuzz*, both films co-written by Pegg and director Edgar Wright. These underground sensations have led to leading roles in *How to Lose People...* and *Run, Fatboy, Run*.

Next year, Pegg's stardom should skyrocket when he plays the young Scotty in J.J. Abrams' new incarnation of *Star Trek*.

While bound by studio secrecy, Pegg's inner geek came out, showing vast anticipation for the film's release next summer.

"I've said everything I'm allowed to say," he said. "I can't wait to start talking about the film. It will be relief. Every one of us in the cast is going to spill our guts."

What Pegg did tell was to wait and see.

"This is an absolute 'Star Trek' movie," he said. "It's completely and utterly part of the canon."

How to Lose Friends and Alienate People opened in theaters Oct. 10th.

Soundlab makes a name for itself

Mike Noonan
Staff Writer

Soundlab, a local music venue in Mokena has undergone new ownership and is making its name known as the place to be to see local and national bands of all types and styles.

"The main focus of the venue is to ensure that any local band, at any level be given a chance to play shows here," states Soundlab's new owner Jon Teeter.

Unlike some other local venues that mainly focus on booking national touring acts to

ensure the big crowds and the big money, Soundlab stays true to the locals giving anyone a shot that is willing to try and have their music be heard.

Teeter's last venue, JT Music, which was located in Midlothian, was closed due to an unruly show attendee who took it upon himself to light a pile of boxes on fire in the alley behind the venue after being thrown out of the venue earlier that night.

The Midlothian authorities, being opposed to any local place, which strives to bring many young people together in one concentrated area, were able to shut the venue down. But after

booking shows at a few other venues for bands in the area, JT Music relocated to Mokena under a new name while still keeping its sense of purpose.

In the local scene the issue of cover charge has always been a problem. Many in the scene, five to six years ago would complain about five dollar cover charges to see local bands, now with gas prices soaring, the price of local shows has seemed to rise right along with cigarettes, gas and pretty much everything under the sun.

"Eight to twelve dollar shows are killing the local music scene, I can go downtown and

see four national acts for fifteen bucks," says an anonymous show attendee.

Is this the real reason why people will no longer go out to support many local acts? Jon's reply to this statement was in a perfect world.

"In a perfect world, I would charge three dollars at the door to have three hundred in attendance. But between paying bills and paying bands their gas money as just an example, it seems inflation may have affected the local venues in the area also."

But to try to combat this problem of the lack of show attendance on weekdays, a new policy has been

enacted at Soundlab.

"If the band so chooses, they can visit the JT Music website and print off tickets to sell to fans, friends and family, once they have made one hundred dollars off selling tickets, they can hand free tickets to whomever they would like."

I would rather have made eight hundred dollars at the door and have seven hundred people show up than have thirty people show up and make half that."

The plan may have some flaws but if it is executed right it might actually do a lot of good for the bands and the venue alike.

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OCTOBER 23: ACOUSTIC NIGHT: CASEY ANDREW SMITH, UNCLE GHOST AND TBA
OCTOBER 26: PORTS OF AIDA AND TBA
OCTOBER 27: POP/ROCK INDIE- THE SKY IS FALLING AND TBA

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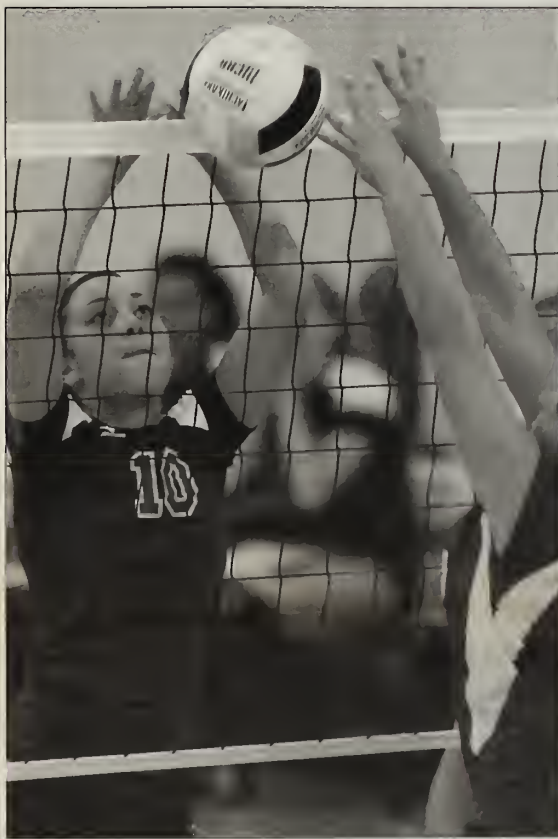
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Lady Wolves start conference play



Freshman Paula Bolan (10) fires one over the net in a recent win over College of DuPage.

Photo By Mike DiNoro

Womens Soccer

Lady Wolves prepare for playoffs

Christina Canterez

Staff Writer

Gino Di Nardo, head coach of the women's soccer team here at JJC, When asked about how he felt about this year's team and their ability to perform on the field he responded with, "they're ready."

The Lady Wolves are tied for first in their conference with the College of DuPage and have two players that are ranked on a national level. Kutchinski is the starting forward for the Lady Wolves and is ranked 18th in the nation for junior colleges. She has scored 10 goals out of the seven games that she has played. Kutchinski has been playing soccer for 13 years and likes playing on the college level.

"College is more laid back than high school, which is a good thing," said Kutchinski.

However a recent injury might affect her rank due to the fact that she will be out a few games. In a game against Moraine Valley on Sept. 26 she sprained her ankle when a player from the opposing team stepped on it. She is hoping to be back on the field in a couple of weeks.

Di Nardo said a definite strong part of the team this year is their goalie. Michelle Del Sarto, who is also a freshman this year, is a strong part of their defense.

Del Sarto is also injured but is still ranked 10th in the nation for junior colleges. She says she is playing at about 75 percent at this point.

Both players are really hoping to make it to district this season but they really want to make the playoffs. The playoffs will start about the third week of October for the Lady Wolves.

"If you don't have the grades, you can't play. They'll make sure you sit out," said Haynes.

Good grades aren't always easy to achieve when so much time and effort is put into playing football though. According to Haynes, the football coaches do their best to make sure the players have adequate help and tutoring in order for the players to play eligible.

Including the practices on campus and the home games in Joliet, the football players also travel a lot for their away games. On Sept. 20 the football team suffered through a 10-hour bus ride for a road game in North Dakota.

"Those long trips can be pretty hectic," said Haynes.

To make things worse, JJC lost the game 33-21.

Unfortunately social life isn't always the first thing on a college athlete's list of things to do. Haynes said the only free time that he has comes on weekends or at 8 o'clock at night.

Despite all these negatives, most student athletes wouldn't trade their lives for anything. Haynes feels his time here at JJC has been beneficial and will only make him a better person in the long run.

While our peers are away at a 4-year university living it up, some of us feel we are "stuck" here at JJC. People may have it easy at a community college, but I assume DeAndre Haynes and everyone else at JJC would disagree.

Pat Bloesing

Staff Writer

After a shaky 0-9 start to the season, the Lady Wolves have gotten their season back on track with critical conference wins against the College of DuPage and Triton College. The Lady Wolves took three of four matches at the St. Ambrose University Invite to push their record to 7-18.

At that tournament, JJC defeated tournament host St. Ambrose Junior Varsity in two games, both of which the final tally was 25-19. Mary Sesol and Katie Liberatori powered JJC to this victory with seven kills a piece. Sesol also teamed up with Meghan Graves to add 15 digs respectively.

The Wolves then defeated Mount Mercy College 25-27,

25-17, 15-6. Sesol and Kristen Rueck each had nine kills, while Liberatori had 10 kills and nine digs.

The Wolves picked up their third win of the tournament against Carl Sandburg with a 25-20, 30-28 score. Kaitlin Soto set the Lady Wolves up for victory with 24 assists.

JJC has had their hands full recently with their full schedule. On Oct. 7 the women lost their rematch with Harper College. Harper won both games against JJC this season including their first meeting back at the start of September.

During the month of October the Lady Wolves have a total of ten games including three games against N4C rivals. Their next home game is Thursday Oct. 23 against Okaton Community College at 6 p.m.

SO, YOU WANT TO BE A STUDENT ATHLETE?

Jake Widlowski

We, as students at a community college, have many options when it comes to scheduling. Some choose to mix school, work, family obligations and social lives together which can make for extremely busy and demanding days. Still some take the easy route and choose the basic 12 credit hour schedule with nothing left to do after school. It's all up to how you want to schedule your time at a community college.

For those of us that work during the week and go to school everyday, we appreciate what it is to have a full schedule. But could we handle adding a college sport into our lives? The added length of the day might be just too much for some people to handle. This is the life of a community college student athlete.

Sophomore DeAndre Haynes is the perfect example of a college athlete: who is trying to make his way through school. DeAndre works in the Project Achieve office here on campus and goes to school five days a week. Added on to his busy schedule, he is a wide receiver on the JJC football team.

"I go to work from 8 to 12, go to class from 12 to 4 and then I go to practice from 4 to 7. Then it's studying time. It can get tiring," said Haynes.

One of the guidelines for the football team is to have good grades, in order to be eligible to play.

"If you don't have the

Sports

Optimistic Wolves look forward to rest of season

Jacob Boersma
Staff Writer

JJC football has been under way for the last seven weeks and after a sub-par start, the Wolves are feeling enthusiastic about the rest of the season.

So far, the Wolves are 3-4 after opening the season with a loss against #11 (NJCAA) Harper College 35-14. The Wolves were able to bounce back the following week with a win against the College of DuPage 27-17. Beginning the next week the Wolves suffered two straight losses to Iowa Central and North Dakota State. JJC got their first home win against NIACC on Sept. 27, 21-18. With the 3-4 record they are 2-2 at home, 1-2 on the road, and 3-4 in conference play.

Coming into this season, the Wolves had high expectations after winning the Graphic Edge Bowl last season. Coach Richardson knows that it will be a tough road ahead for his team this season, since the Wolves play in a very tough conference and a difficult upcoming schedule.

After game one against Harper College, Coach Richardson said, "they came to play and to win that game, we didn't."

In all sports, the first game is always the toughest because of the change in speed. Practice is

generally slower than a real game in an attempt to avoid injury. In turn, the Wolves got off to a slow start in the first game.

Going into week two, the team really understood how to play college football with the win against DuPage. Despite the win there appeared to be some composure problems on the field. The players need to learn that no game is over until all the time has expired and poor play at the end could determine a win or a loss.

On October 4 the Wolves suffered another setback at the hands of Ellsworth CC, losing 47-15. JJC won in a blowout over Ellsworth last season, so the Panthers were eager to return the favor in this year's matchup.

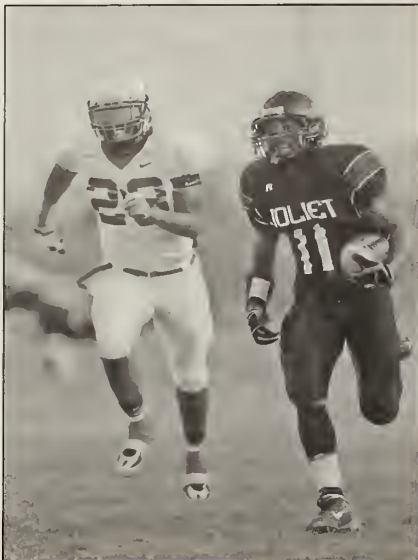
This past Saturday the Wolves rebounded well with a solid win over Rock Valley 31-12. Quarterback Chris Walley threw for 216 yards and three touchdowns, including a 97 yard touchdown reception by Carlos Johnson. The story of the game had to be the JJC defense which only allowed 205 total yards en route to the third win of the season.

The players have really been coming around as a team with solid practices in the last couple of weeks. Some coaches may wonder why it has taken so long for this team to gain its composure. Coach Richardson replied by saying, "It may have took un-

til week 7 to get it, but we got it now and that's all that counts."

The Wolves are heading into the home stretch of the season, and in order to finish well the team will have to rely on their standout players such as Running Back Tim Huguley, who has 283 yards on 77 carries with 3 touchdowns and a 3.7 yards-per-carry average. Another key player is Wide Receiver Taurus McKinley, who leads the team in receiving with 16 catches for 224 yards with a touchdown. Also, Wide Receiver Terry Whisby has been on a hot streak with 202 yards receiving and 2 touchdowns.

Defensively, the Wolves look to Defensive Tackle Trey Jackson to be their leader who has recorded 31 tackles and leads the team in sacks with 6. Linebacker Anthony Echols also needs to keep up his big numbers. He is ranked in the top 10 in the nation in tackles with 66. Echols and Jackson also teamed up for a safe-



JJC wide receiver Taurus McKinley blows by an NIACC defender en route to a 50 yard touchdown.

Photo by Mike DeWitt

ty in the first quarter against Ellsworth. The Wolves play Carthage College JV this Sunday Oct. 19 at 1 pm.

Wolves prepare for playoffs with win streak

Men's Soccer

Josh Green
Staff Writer

The Joliet Junior College men's soccer team has recently suffered a minor setback to their goal of a perfect season. They dropped three straight games to tough teams starting with Prairie State College. After that game, NJC conference opponents The College of DuPage and Triton College handed them two more losses.

The Wolves are currently

riding a four-game winning streak. The winning streak began with a 3-1 win over Heartland Community College on Sept. 19th. The victory included a hat trick from Bryce Anderson. 17 saves were recorded by



JJC's men's soccer team

Photo by Mike DeWitt

goalkeeper Shaun Etherington. After an unexpected rain delay

again Anderson, Etherington had five key saves in the game.

The Wolves are expected to make up the rain delayed game against Harper College as soon as possible. The JJC men's soccer team recently beat Kankakee Community College 9-0 on Oct. 3 at home.

Anderson was the leading goal scorer in this game, recording three goals for the Wolves, while Arturo Rios followed up with two goals. Etherington completed his third shutout and the Wolves record improved to 9-4-1 overall.

MALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

BY JAKE WIDLOWSKI



BRUCE ANDERSON

Freshman midfielder Bryce Anderson had a hat trick against Heartland Community College on Sept. 19 and another 3-goal effort against Kankakee on Oct. 3. He also added 2 goals and an assist in the 4-1 victory over Carl Sandburg College Sept. 26. Anderson has 12 goals and 4 assists on the year.

Sophomore Mary Sesol played lights out in the St. Ambrose University Invite on Sept. 27. She recorded 15 digs in the opening game and had 31 kills for the tournament. JJC went 3-1 in the tournament. Sesol leads the Lady Wolves with 180 kills and 175 digs on the season. She has also added 17 blocks.



MARY SESOL

THE FINAL PUSH

Students voting for John McCain said....



AMANDA ROYALTY
McCain holds true to his beliefs and supports good Christian values."



SAMANTHA ATAMIAN
McCain is the right choice because he is experienced in the military and is not afraid to be aggressive."

The race tightens between the candidates after final debate

Jeil Kopp
Staff Writer

Barack Obama lead the race for the presidency going into the third and final debate Oct. 15 and kept a steady pace through the debate, while McCain failed to pull ahead.

The senators exchanged crushing blows on topics like the economy, taxes and voter-fraud and although McCain didn't necessarily lose the debate, he couldn't score a much-needed win.

The winner of the debate was actually neither Obama nor McCain, but a man named Samuel J. Wurzelbacher. Joe the Plumber, as he was referred to, was used as an example by McCain to show how Obama's tax plan would hurt small businesses making

over \$250,000 a year. Joe the Plumber was pushed into the public eye and has recently appeared on shows such as *Hannity & Colmes* and Mike Huckabee's new Fox News show.

The point McCain was trying to make was that small businesses couldn't create

The winner of the debate was actually neither Obama nor McCain, but a man named Samuel J. Wurzelbacher - Joe the plumber.

new jobs for Americans when they are forced to pay more taxes. Obama's rebuttal was that when Joe the Plumber's business was making less than \$250,000 a year, he could have used a tax break. Obama went on to say that he would like to give entrepreneurs who want

to start their businesses right now a tax break to help get them get started.

McCain continued his negative attacks trying to create a link between Obama and William Ayers, who was accused of bombing the Pentagon in the early '70s. Obama responded by pointing out that when Ayers was accused of terrorism, Obama was only 8 years old. Ayers is currently a professor in Chicago and Obama has served on a school reform board with him.

According to the latest Gallup poll taken Oct. 23, Obama leads McCain by seven points, 50 percent to 43 percent, with seven percent unsure about their choice for president.

13 percent of voters said they will cast their first ballot in this election. First-time voters overwhelmingly supported Obama 65 percent to 31 percent, over McCain.

Students voting for Barack Obama said....



SARAH SARABIA
"I hope that Obama will deal with the issues of our economy as well as keeping soldiers in Iraq."



CARLOS ENRIQUEZ
"I hope his reelection is the fact that the struggling economy can effect our student loans, the war in Iraq is also a big problem."

Lake clean-up placed on hold

Jim Sheldon
Co-Editor-In-Chief

The Joliet Junior College lake clean-up project is currently delayed as the college waits for approval of a permit to remove the sediments from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).

Back in June 2006, JJC formed a lake committee to attend to concerns about the lake's condition and to figure out the necessary course of

actions.

"The committee decided that a long-term management approach to restoration was the best method to proceed," said Virginia Piekarski, biology lab supervisor.

The current ecological condition of JJC's lake has been in the making for about 40 years according to Andy Neill, assistant professor of biology.

"Soil erosion and storm water run-off from the surrounding watershed have carried soil, excess fertilizers and other water

contaminates into the lake and formed approximately 6,000 cubic yards of muddy nutrient rich sediments."

Year after year, the sediments cause a huge increase in algae growth, which explains the lake's condition.

"As the algae depletes the water of these dissolved nutrients, the algae dies rapidly and decomposes which depletes the water of oxygen. This lack of oxygen then results in a dying off of fish and causes an unsightly scene and obnoxious

odors," said Neill. "Removing and redistributing the sediments will reduce the availability of nutrients and clear the waters."

In September 2006, the college hired STS Consultants of Vernon Hills, Ill. to determine the causes of the lake's fundamental problems. They looked at the history of the lake and evaluated the lake's water quality.

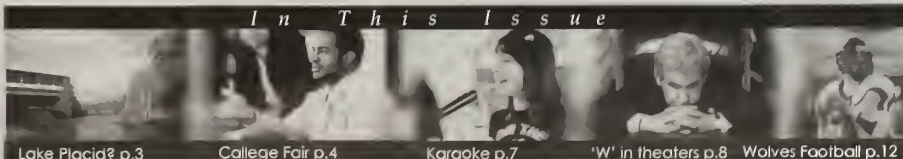
They returned in November 2006 and did a more detailed study and proposed a restoration plan.

JJC is currently in Phase 2 of the Lake Rehabilitation & Enhancement Project, which is hydro-dredging the lake to remove sediment.

"Some of the sediment will be placed in the north end of the lake to enhance the wetlands and the bulk of the sediment, approximately 4,500 cubic yards, will be pumped to the agriculture fields for dewatering and ultimately, the sediment

See Lake Page 3

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Elected conflict of interest

EDITORIAL

The days leading down to the election are dwindling, as is our faith in the candidates for president. We have a choice between a self-proclaimed "maverick" republican with a never heard of gun-toting hockey mom from Alaska as his vice president. Or we have the option to give our vote to a perhaps inexperienced, young and well-spoken democrat with a hardly spoken of, if that, VP.

To many it appears to be coming down to race at certain points. We truly believe that anyone who is voting against a candidate for their skin color instead of their capabilities to run a country is in fact looking too far into this election. Age, we believe, may actually be a better issue to look at when it comes to personal characteristics of a presidential candidate.

One would prefer to have a president that could actually survive his term in office in exchange for his lack of experience thereof. This compared to a candidate that has a better chance of perishing in his term and leaving control of the US to someone that was lacking enough intellectual willpower to support the building of a "bridge to nowhere" in Alaska.

Experience may be an issue

when it comes to the candidates.

However, the better bet for our country is a president with enough experience and well-developed speech skills to help the country get through its current hardships, in comparison to having a president that quite frankly puts responses out of his you know where and cannot even give empowering speeches to begin with.

Sitting at home watching the news, we keep seeing all the vanity, controversy and just garbage in general that is somehow affecting every aspect of this election. With the option of what many would call a "MILF" for a vice president, many have begun to notice the vanity involved in this election. Even when it comes to Obama's wife's sense of Jackie O. style, we can tell that image may be a key factor in who people vote for, in our material society.

In addition, there have been many controversies afloat over the last few weeks regarding each candidate. One of which mentions Obama having not paid multiple parking tickets from his youth until recently, which we believe is completely irrelevant to his capability to be president.

On the other hand, it could show how adults may just attempt to cast their vote for Obama due to his celebrity status in the eyes of a Hollywood centered youth. Celebrities from the likes of Ben Affleck, who mentioned last year to MSNBC that "Hollywood loves Obama," to Obama's widely known Oprah support, celebrities have come out of their Hollywood lives to take on another role as political supporters. Whether or not the celebrity status of Obama will truly have an effect on the election, we will not know until the next president is announced.

Hopefully, knowing that the average college student so largely observes this election, we will make the right choice as to who our next president will be. We have a bit more faith in the American people voting, than we do in the possible people that will be running our country. So, we shall all see when the next president of the US is announced.

With the hope that neither of them will be sworn in wearing lipstick, may the best pin...uh man win.

There does involve the capability of being president. If you cannot be considered a citizen of the US technically, then how can you be president? Before we know it the "Governator" Arnold Schwarzenegger will somehow slip his way into the election of 2012, and we'll have a "Presinator"

fiasco on our hands.

To add to the piles of garbage surrounding this election, many politically uneducated young adults may just attempt to cast their vote for Obama due to his celebrity status in the eyes of a Hollywood centered youth. Celebrities from the likes of Ben Affleck, who mentioned last year to MSNBC that "Hollywood loves Obama," to Obama's widely known Oprah support, celebrities have come out of their Hollywood lives to take on another role as political supporters. Whether or not the celebrity status of Obama will truly have an effect on the election, we will not know until the next president is announced.

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The Pop Culture Commentary

COMIC RELIEF

with Shelley Holmgren

Ever since my youth I have been an avid X-Men fan. An unexplainable phenomenon that took place in my childhood, my fondest memories are of absorbing the pages of my older sister's extensive X-Men comic book collection or watching the animated series every morning without fail. This is a passion that has stayed with me until my teenage years, until a time when my loyalty to the comic book was brought into question with the creation of the X-Men films.

The decline in authenticity and sincerity to this comic book adaptation to film is as apparent as the economic decline our country is beginning to face. Now, I delve farther and farther into these catastrophes to try to answer one simple question - what went so wrong?

Stan Lee, the creator of Marvel, much alike the creative genius that gave birth to such comic heroes as The Incredible Hulk, Spiderman, the Fantastic Four and of course, X-Men. For the true comic fan, you've noticed that Stan Lee makes a cameo in all of his comic adaptation films - compare it to a cypresser asked to Where's Waldo? Although such a task can be entertaining to

a five-year-old, what are the rest of us supposed to do when we are holding our chest in pure agony?

To understand how the film went so wrong, I look at the director of both X-Men and X-2 - Bryan Singer. Prior to the film, Singer had few directorial credits to his name before taking on the project. We could attribute his inexperience to the cause of these faulty films, but history has gone to show that inexperience doesn't always lead to terrible movies. It's the producers.

I'm not naive in regards to the way Hollywood works, and the world for that matter, but there is one universal truth - money talks. However, if you follow the money trail to these films, you see there's one consistency that can be found in this money train - Stan Lee is a producer for all of these films. If I ever have the opportunity to meet Mr. Lee, I will first treat him to a heart-felt hug for giving the world all of his comic book masteries. Then next, I would slap him. I will do this for all of the comic book fans who had to watch these films in pure agony and he is the one who is profiting from this mayhem.

I understand that certain 'creative compromises' must be made in order to make these films a success, but was it really

necessary to compromise the integrity of these films also?

Singer declined the offer to direct the third X-Men film and instead directed *Superman Returns*, which we all bore witness to what a bang-up job he did there. Seriously, Kate Bosworth? Seriously? Next on Singer's agenda of films to ruin is *Superman: Man of Steel*, another attempt to justify his past adaptation woes which is comparable to pouring salt in one's wounds. Just the fact that his name is in the directorial credits will be a stronger repellent than kryptonite.

Brett Ratner, better known for his directorial contribution of the *Rush Hour* films - and no I am not kidding, took over for Singer in regards to completely pulverizing this franchise. Now, according to reports, Ratner is attached to the upcoming project of reprising "Conan the Barbarian" in films. However, much like all of the other reports, the likelihood of this film actually being made in the near future (it's been a rumor for over seven years) is comparable to the likelihood of a *Rush Hour* film winning an Oscar. It's just not going to happen, Brett.

Being at the helms of two different directors in its creation, the X-Men franchise suffers from

something worst than enduring a Vanessa Hudgens album - severe misinterpretations of the original comic. The first example of this that is seen in is the original comic book, the original students of the Xavier Institute were Cyclops, Jean Grey (known as Marvel Girl at the time), Beast, Archangel and Iceman. However, in the films both Iceman and Archangel, are portrayed as teens, whereas Jean Grey and Cyclops are actually their instructors. WRONG.

Also, in the first film, Rogue is introduced as a runaway, fleeing from home and finding solace in Wolverine and the Institute. WRONG. True fans know that much, much more occurred in the Rogue storyline before she eventually found herself as one of the X-Men. Even then, she is never depicted as a young student, instead, she is seen as a peer of Storm and the other original members, but please, do not get me started on Storm's reprieve in the films. Was it just me, or was her wig in the first two films from the same creator of Donald Trump's elusive comb-over?

The next insult to injury of this genre is the X-Men Origins: Wolverine film, set to premiere early May next year. Directed by Gavin Hood, who, in all honesty, doesn't really have any notable

directorial credits to his name, the promise of the film lies in the capable hands of writer David Benioff, whose other writing credits include *Troy* and *Stay*, both fantastic films in my opinion. However, as I keep taking notice of film updates, I'm already beginning to see inconsistencies in casting alone.

For example, character Remy LeBeau, better known to comic fans as Gambit, is set to make his first appearance in the X-men films. (I could make a total geek out of myself and point out that his name is seen in passing in the second X film, but I will spare myself the embarrassment.)

Although I am ecstatic that they finally decided to include him in the films, the relevance his character has to the plot is none - zip - zero. It makes as much sense for his character to be present in the film as much as it would have Paula Abdul - and there is something seriously wrong with that mess being involved with any scenario.

For the future, I put the promise of these films gaining integrity with not only the Wolverine film, but also the rumored origins *Magneto* film. Very much like the economy, these films are going to need a major bailout before finding solid ground again.

National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week

Kimberly Saffon
Staff Writer

It is evident that more than half of college students drink alcohol, but not all are responsible about it.

National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week takes place at Joliet Junior College from 11-1 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 27 - Thursday, Oct. 30, hosted this year by The Office of Student Activities and Pam Dilday. The purpose is to show students the dangers of alcohol abuse and help

students see that their decisions impact their lives.

"Choosing to drink or not is personal but regardless of the choice, they have to live with the consequences of those decisions," said Dilday.

Monday will be Mocktail Monday with non-alcoholic smoothie drinks being available to enjoy while information about alcohol abuse, binge drinking, choices and more will be provided.

Tuesday, the Joliet Police Department and campus police will lead fatal vision goggle

demonstrations. The goggles simulate intoxication above the legal limit and they will also feature a drunk driving simulator.

Wednesday, resource tables with individuals from various organizations will be on hand to provide information on speeding, alcohol abuse and more.

Lastly, on Thursday the Student Wellness Council will host Sober Fun Day with games and much more.

Dilday has been doing National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week since she was the wellness coordinator in 1997.

Amy Sims is the current wellness coordinator but she is on maternity leave until Dec. 1. She is the one who usually plans these weeks. A week has been dedicated to this campaign because it is something that students need to be reminded of.

"If we impact one person, we've had a successful week," said Dilday.

"If one student thinks before they get in the car after drinking or riding with someone who has been drinking, we've accomplished a lot."

LETTER POLICY

The Blazer welcomes and encourages participation by our readers. Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters to verify authenticity. Letters should be 300 words or fewer. We reserve the right to edit for space and content. You may send your letter through inter-office mail, postal mail, email at blazermail@jjc.edu, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office in F1009.

Lake, From Page 1



A view overlooking the soon to be cleaned lake at JJC.

Photo by Alicia Diamond

will be reclaimed and provide nutrients for the Ag fields," said Piekarski.

In order for Phase 2 to begin, the permit from the IEPA must be approved and once that happens, JJC will hire contractors to remove the sediments.

The hold with the clean up is for a few reasons according to Neill.

"The same State and Federal

Clean Water laws that protect waterways, can also require a lengthy permitting process while officials evaluate plans to alter a body of water. JJC's plan will alter the lake and the surrounding watershed for the better and in theory, the Illinois EPA wants to make sure of this."

Once Phase 2 is complete, JJC will move on to Phases 3 and 4 of the project. These phases

consist of improving storm water management.

Three vortex catch basins will be installed which will help remove pollutants from parking lot runoff before it enters the lake. A bioswale, a landscape element designed to remove silt and pollution from surface runoff water, will be constructed near the Ag fields. The wetland at the ravine will be enhanced and the

storm sewer by G-Building will be repaired, in these phases.

"If the entire plan is implemented, it is expected that JJC's lake will remain clean with more open water for decades to come without compromising the ecological health of the lake and serving as a model for the community," said Neill.

Have some
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CORRECTIONS

IN THE LAST ISSUE, THE EDITORIAL ON PAGE 2 INCORRECTLY IDENTIFIED

JOHN E. KENNEDY AS THE ONE WHO TOOK A BOTTOM UP APPROACH DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION. IT WAS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT WHO DID THAT.

Barnes and Noble Book Fair: Will County Community Health Center and Phi Theta Kappa

Support the Will County Community Health Center's Reach Out and Read program and The Honor Society at Joliet Jr. College: Phi Theta Kappa by shopping at Barnes & Noble in Bolingbrook, Illinois. In an effort to raise funds for the Will County Community Health Center's child literacy program, Phi Theta Kappa is working with Barnes & Noble Booksellers by hosting

a bookfair at the Bolingbrook store.

On Saturday, November 29th from 11am-4pm, Barnes & Noble will contribute a percentage of every sale made with a special bookfair voucher to the Reach Out and Read program. Vouchers will be available online at PhiThetaKappa.org or at www.jjc.edu/Club/PTK.

Please pass it along to friends

and family too. A percentage of bookfair sales will underwrite their Reach Out and Read program. Also, the Health Center will be able to create a wish list of titles to enhance its supply of books to give to pediatric patients. Bookfair supporters may choose books from an in-store wish list display to purchase for the health center or bring lightly used children's books to donate.

Events and programs will be held at Barnes & Noble on Saturday, November 29th from 11am-4pm. These events include book signings with authors Lloyd Frankland and Margot Justus (11am-4pm), Seminar about the Geography of Bliss (1-2pm), Open Mic Music Entertainment (11am-1pm), and Story time with Santa (3-4pm).

Please help support this

cause by shopping at Barnes & Noble, in the Bolingbrook Franchise 631 E. 80th Street, Suite 100, Bolingbrook, IL (west of I-55). On Saturday, November 29th, with a bookfair voucher. For more information, contact Chelle M. Kappa, Phi Theta Kappa Chapter President at cmkappa87@jjc.edu or Aurora De Vries-Vice President of Service for Phi Theta Kappa at audevries@jjc.edu.



Photo by Alicia Diamond

Students crowded into the E and F concourse to look into possible choices of universities to go to.

JJC hosts state universities

Rob Longdon
Staff Writer

On Tuesday Oct. 21, from 11-1 p.m., JJC held a state university fair on the E and F concourse. The event was cooperative between state universities consortium and JJC.

During the two hour time frame, the E and F concourse became one of the most crowded places on campus, with students flooding into the hallway and gathering at the state universities representative's tables.

"It's a pleasure to meet with

JJC students to help them with the transfer process," said Anne Marino, a transfer counselor and a representative from Eastern Illinois University.

Terri Montgomery, associate director of transfer and multicultural recruitment at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville said, "It's great to have the public state institutions in the same place at the same time."

Angie Kaysen, the transfer and multicultural services coordinator at JJC played an important role in helping orchestrate the event.

"It's my job to ensure that the

information provided by the state universities is clear to the students here at JJC," said Kaysen.

When Kaysen was asked how important she thought the state university fair was, she said it was essential because, "all transfer students should investigate their options."

Twelve state universities were present at the fair.

The universities present were, Chicago State University, Western Illinois University, Southern Illinois University (Carbondale), SIU (Edwardsville), University of Illinois (at Chicago) University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign), U of I (Springfield), Illinois State University, Northern Illinois University, and Eastern Illinois University.

Discover Joliet Junior College

Kelcie Landoni
Staff Writer

Come one, come all, and discover Joliet Junior College at their fall event, Discover JJC, on Saturday, Nov. 1 from 10-1 p.m.

Anyone interested in attending JJC has the opportunity to discover the college and see for themselves how much the college has to offer.

"Discover JJC gives students the ability to see our school and to see if JJC has what they are looking for," said Rosa Salazar, recruitment specialist.

This event is a great way to become associated and familiar with the college before making any final decisions.

In just one day, students are able to meet and speak with faculty and students from all over the campus. Students can experience how friendly and great the JJC faculty and students are, as well as the environment. The faculty will be there to guide and answer any questions or concerns that prospective students may have about JJC.

Students have the opportunity to see all the different academic programs JJC has to offer by visiting the different tables, which will be set up throughout the campus buildings. Each academic department will have its own table, where they will be distributing information based on their programs.

There will also be different presentations offered throughout the day regarding financial aid, admissions and the STAR program. Each presentation will consist of different information such as how to fill out scholarships, how to apply, how to become a

JJC student and what information is needed from the students. Attending these presentations will allow students to gather important information on what they need to do to get started as a JJC student.

Also, if students have never seen a show at JJC's planetarium, this event is a perfect opportunity for them to also catch a mini presentation.

There will be three main entrances, buildings D, J, and T. Students will first sign in, then a JJC information bag will be given to them, which will contain a program guide, a tour guide, a flyer, a pen and an evaluation form.

The program guide gives students a map of the different academic programs, locations and times of presentations. Each student will receive a tour guide, if the tour guide is completed accurately, they are automatically eligible for an IPOD raffle. There will only be one raffle prize awarded, so students are advised to get their tour guide chart completed and to turn it into one of the three check-in tables. After students have discovered JJC, they are asked to fill out and turn in their evaluation form. Upon turning in a completed evaluation form, students will be given a JJC tote bag.

With all the fun activities and events, Discover JJC will be offering, this event is a great place to start taking those first steps to becoming a JJC student. Students should not pass this opportunity up because it is a wonderful experience for anyone interested in attending JJC.

So students, bring a friend or a family member, and enjoy the day discovering JJC!

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Ross Katsma
Transfer Counselor

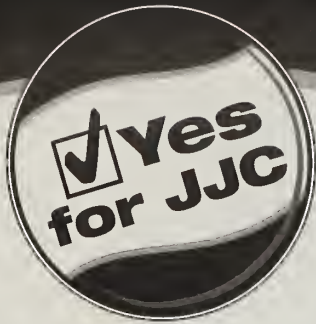


Visit a Transfer Tuesday

The First Tuesday of Every Month, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Transfer students, call Ross Katsma at 866.TRIN.4.ME, ext. 4871,
e-mail transfer@trnity.edu, or visit our Web site at www.trnity.edu.

With more than 40 areas of study, Trinity Christian College offers you a variety of options for getting the degree you want - less than 20 miles from Joliet. Find out more during the following transfer evenings, which include an informative session, a tour of campus, and financial aid advice.

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Jenna Miller
Staff Writer

In the main campus, around lunchtime, a few times each semester, you are able to join in and listen to unique topics discussed by some of JJC's own elite faculty.

Since the spring of 1989, JJC has been holding lectures directed by the Brown Bag series. Their objective is to teach and inform students about different issues that normally aren't easily touched upon.

So far this semester, JJC has already held three different lectures on "Chronic Pain," "Faculty Exchange," and "A Curse to the School System."

Fred Harris, the media/photography supervisor said, "Topics such as chronic pain with professor Laura McGuire was so

"Living with Chronic Pain"

Laura McGuire
Wednesday, September 10th
Noon, 3000

"Faculty Exchange-England, Finland & Switzerland"
Kristin LaTour, Kyle Richardson and Giselle Aterberry
Thursday, September 25th
Noon, 3000

"A Curse to the School System: The History of Teachers Unions in the US"

John Lyons
Thursday, October 2nd
Noon, 3000

"Greenspeak"

John Koepke
Tuesday, October 28th
Noon, 3000

"Light Pollution and Pollution of the Radio Spectrum"

Noelia O'Criz
Monday, November 17th
Noon, Planetarium

North Campus

"Entrepreneurship"

Michelle Meyer
Wednesday, October 22nd
Noon, Conference Room

Going inside the Brown Bag lecture series

important because most students didn't know or understand issues such as this, so with her help, we provided them with information."

Another helpful feature is on

green management. If anyone would like more information on the Brown Bag lecture series, their web page provides all of the dates and times and can be found under the JJC website.

the Brown Bag's website. If there was a lecture that students missed and wanted to listen to, Brown Bag conveniently podcasts their previous lectures for students.

"The podcast has many topics, which students can benefit from by listening to them even if they couldn't make the lecture," said Harris.

This semester, Brown Bag will be holding seven different lectures and in the spring there will be another six. Some of the topics include "Greenspeak" which Harris describes as, "taking the broad scope of the green initiative and issues," entrepreneurship, pollution and

PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT Dr. Steven Kasprisin

Ally Flannary

Staff Writer

One of the well known Biology and Anatomy and Physiology teachers at Joliet Junior College is Dr. Steven Kasprisin. Dr. Kasprisin was born in Ticonderoga, NY and raised in Joliet, Ill. since second grade. With both of his parents being teachers, he knew he wanted to follow in their footsteps and become a teacher as well.

Dr. Kasprisin has been teaching at JJC for seven years now, six of those years as a part time teacher. He has also taught speech therapy for kindergarten through twelfth grade and medical schooling for college through graduate.

Working hard and earning a degree as high as an M.D., Dr. Kasprisin accomplished ten years of college schooling. He received his associate's degree at JJC, his bachelor's degree at the University of Northern Illinois, his master's degree at the University of Illinois Chicago and his doctoral degree at the International University of the Health Sciences.

Students of Dr. Kasprisin say they really enjoy having him as a teacher because he makes his classes more interesting everyday. Also, students say they enjoy his teaching methods as well as his test-taking tips because his methods of teaching are understandable and his tips on taking tests really do help.

When asked if he had any advice for students, Dr. Kasprisin first said, "Study!" He advises all students to study the materials learned in class everyday because he knows repetition is the key. He also advises students to study the information they do not know because it is only going to help them when it comes time to take a test.

"Do what you like to do as long as it doesn't hurt you or others."

Dr. Kasprisin likes to encourage students to do what they like, but reminds them to stay on the right track.

Overall, Dr. Kasprisin is an excellent teacher and knows his teaching material very well. It is recommended to take one of his classes, by students who have had him, because everyday of class is more interesting and enjoyable.

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Now that you've made the decision to begin your education at Joliet Junior College, it's never too early to think about where you will continue to find your passion. There are still so many important questions that need to be answered.

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- What about scholarships and financial aid?
- What are my internship opportunities?
- Will I be able to study abroad?
- Once I transfer, how long will it take me to complete my bachelor's degree?

You are bound to have questions. Talking to your transfer counselor at North Central College will help you find the answers.

North Central College will be at Joliet Junior College on:

Tuesday, November 4th, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Thursday, November 13th, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Monday, November 17th, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Attend our Transfer Visit Day on:

Saturday, November 1st, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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Paper Towns

Jez Layman
Staff Writer

In John Green's new book, *Paper Towns*, Margo Roth Spiegelman did eleven outrageous things in one night. She righted wrongs, won a few rights and brought Quentin "Q" Jacobsen along for the adventure.

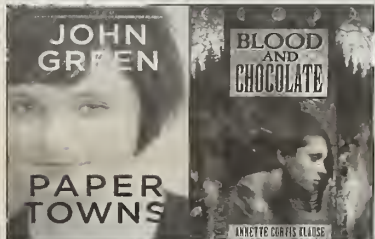
In Q's eyes Margo was, in a word, awesome. For sixteen years Q lived next door to Margo, and for sixteen years, he had been in love with her. After all, she was the only living legend to ever live next door to him and was the only one to recruit him in the middle of the night to go on an adventure. It was the best and longest day of Q's life. The next day, Margo disappeared.

Margo had been known to run away before, but she had always come back home. This time, it didn't seem likely that she would return. But before she ran away this time, she left something for Q: a clue. He begins following clue after clue, desperate to find

Margo again and bring her back home. He enlists his two best friends Ben and Radar to help him, but after awhile the chances of the clues leading somewhere begin to dwindle. Some of the group wonders if Margo really wants to be found, or if she even can be found. Quentin, however, can't let go and continues the mission to find Margo, but along the way, he also begins to find himself.

Additionally, the plot was well done and interesting, with very few dull moments, but rather kept the story flowing in a way that makes the reader want to keep reading. The story itself is a cathartic roller-coaster, with its ups and downs along the way, with events ranging from a hilarious road trip with witty characters, to melancholy reflections of the world and the loss of a friend.

Overall, *Paper Towns* is well-written and keeps the reader interested with its adventure, mystery and witty characters. This new book is a great read for teens and adults.



Blood and Chocolate

Kimberly Solton
Staff Writer

With vampire themed books recently becoming popular again, reviewing *Blood and Chocolate* by Annette Curtis Klause, a controversial book about the world of werewolves, seemed an appropriate way to remind readers of other aspects of science fiction that may have been forgotten.

The book is about the main character, Vivian Gandillon who is sixteen and a werewolf, and the obstacles she faces living between two worlds, human and creature. Forced to move to a new town when her home is set on fire, Vivian faces a difficult transition, coping with her father's death and the disorder of her pack, The Five, who are still looking for a new leader.

She falls in love with a human, Aiden, after reading his surprisingly accurate poem about werewolves. He is different from those in The Five and she longs for him to love her, all of her. Unfortunately her loyalties are divided when unexplained murders start to occur. Vivian must figure out a way to live in both worlds without endangering anyone in the process. Can she protect The Five and still have the

love of a human she desires?

Klause uniquely explores the themes of love, sexuality, loneliness and jealousy that are all present in a teenager's life but brilliantly portrays them in the life of a teenage werewolf. Some may consider this book to be nothing but fluff; however I found myself strangely relating to Vivian and all she has to face and even found myself feeling sorry for her.

There are not many college students who voluntarily read in their spare time anymore but the chapters are short and the type is increasingly large so it is an easy read. The book is a fast-paced suspenseful romance/thriller that will have anybody wanting more. Consider the question: "which tastes sweeter, blood or chocolate?"

Blood and Chocolate was one of the many books that were displayed in the JJC library during banned books week, which took place from Sept. 27 to Oct. 4. Even though banned books week is over, celebrate your freedom to read everyday by stopping by the library and picking up this book or any other ones that may be deemed inappropriate. If you enjoy this, check out other books for young adults by Klause, *The Silver Kiss*, *Alien Secrets*, and *Frakes: Alive on the Inside*.



Hidden talent on the bridge

Photo by Alicia Diamond

Shelley Holmgren
Production Manager

Karaoke - a word often affiliated with making a fool of oneself while belting such crowd favorites as Donna Summer's "I Will Survive" or if one is feeling particularly daring, "The Macarena," although no one knows the words to that song anyways. This fad of public humiliation has been around since the 70's and been popularized by such film's as *Lost in Translation* and *Coyote Ugly*.

On Oct. 21 from 11-1:30 pm, JJC students were able to participate in the musical mayhem that is karaoke. Taking place on the main campus bridge, the Office of Student Activities hosted the event with the assistance of Eva Trimble of Starstruck Entertainment.

Pam Dilday, director of student activities, said, "[Karaoke has] been a staple program since I came to Main Campus nine years ago." Although Dilday denies being an avid karaoke enthusiast herself, she enjoys "watching the students have fun and be part of the activity."

Dilday also continued to stress the importance of participating in events hosted by the office of student activities, as well as others at JJC.

She said, "Campus activities provide things for students to do when they aren't in classes and helps them to get to know other students which also helps them to feel more involved and part of the college and that affects retention."

Even with the electrical issues, there was a great turnout for this event. Trimble, better known as "Ms. Eva," took notice of the student's performances, "They really have a lot of talent floating around this college." Trimble also noted that karaoke is not often available to students because they are not of age to go into bars where a majority of this activity takes place. She also added that this is one of the times students can display their musical talent. "I wish it was something that was available more."

Students that participated included Patrick Luckett and Tim Johnson who performed 50 Cent's "P.I.M.P." to much acclaim from the audience. In fact, an audience

member became so enthusiastic that he began to perform "the worm" in front of the stage. After their performance, Luckett was very satisfied with him and Johnson's performance and said, "We were having a lot of fun and the crowd loved it."

Another student who gave a crowd-pleasing performance was Candra Graham who sang "Angel" by Amanda Perez. Graham is a frequent performer in the JJC area and has even participated in JJC's chapter of American Idol. Prior to her performance, she was trying to shake some last-minute nerves, "I'm really nervous. I think the crowd adds energy to the atmosphere. I'll try not to embarrass myself."

Dilday confirmed that karaoke will take place once a month on campus, so it looks like the musical splendor will continue on. She said in order for this to happen, "Students pay an activity fee and that's what allows us to provide the activities we do...so in a sense, you've already paid for the programs we offer."

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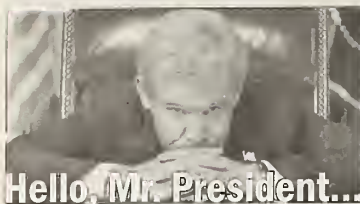
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Hello, Mr. President...

Matt Sheehan

Staff Writer

Director Oliver Stone can make some pretty bold, profound and often controversial statements with his movies. Whether the staunch anti-Vietnam War sentiment in his Oscar-winning *Platoon* or the paranoid conspiracy theory-driven message in *JFK*, Stone always finds himself on one or both sides of crazy, all with a considerable amount of liberal leaning.

In his latest film, Stone gives his most balanced and fair view of any subject he's covered: the sitting President of the United States, George W. Bush. The film is simply titled *W*.—Sentencing punctuation included.

Bush (Josh Brolin) and his story from privileged youth to the White House is drawn and delivered in flashbacks. The film is split among Bush's various meetings with his staff: Karl Rove (Toby Jones), Colin Powell (Jeffrey Wright), Donald Rumsfeld (Scott Glenn), Condoleezza Rice (Thandie Newton), Director of the CIA George Tenet (Bruce McGill) and Dick Cheney (Richard Dreyfuss).

During these meetings, Bush daydreams of standing in the empty Texas Rangers stadium, his name announced over the P.A. system as the invisible crowd goes wild. Jump back to his drunk days at Yale University, following in the footsteps of his father, George H.W. Bush (James Cromwell).

Young Bush puts up with battling "Poppy" and mother Barbara (Ellen Burstyn), chasing women until meeting a young woman named Laura (Elizabeth Banks); and battling his demons while converting to Christianity. In the end, it's all about individuality and living up to and above his father's expectations.

We will never know exactly what happened in the White House; we can only give an educated opinion. Here, Stone and writer Stanley Weiser read every interview and insider article and book they could to capture the essence of the good ole boy from Texas, all in a non-malicious, balanced perspective. For the most part, Stone succeeds.

Rather than skewer the unpopular prez, Stone gives a sympathetic story of one's demons aiding in their future plight at success. Stone shows that anyone—and he means anyone—can become president.

And Stone packs his film with an impressive group of actors, looking more like the latest guest cast on "Saturday Night Live," capturing their particular character's essence over looks. Newton seems to be the most dedicated, looking and sounding like Rice's doppelganger, tooth gap and all.

Dreyfuss does a un-Cheney Cheney. Where most impressions, characters and personifications of the sitting VP focus on the jaw and quacking growl, Dreyfuss, although a little light around the midsection, speaks with the tone Cheney is known for, side-sacking his chin for only once.

Banks, on the brink of stardom (TV's *Scrubs* and films *The 40-Year-Old Virgin* and this month's *Zack and Muri Make A Porno*), also looks the part. Her accent seems spot-on, a simple and straightforward performance.

Wright also does an excellent job of personifying Powell with quiet charisma and silent confidence, in whom he is portraying. Of the supporting cast, he does the finest work.

But the film is about Bush, and therefore, belongs to the confident and career-defining performance of Brolin. Last year, he had a revival, of sorts, with five films; his performance in "No Country for Old Men" as the good old Texan could be the reason he got the role of one of the most famous from the Lone Star state.

Brolin seems focused and calculated in his portrayal, neither spiteful nor congenial. His baritone of 2007 appears to have paid off: an Oscar nomination could be in store. Like Bush, Brolin has a certain, common charm and sophistication that allows him to connect with audiences. He looks, sounds and even thinks like the 43rd President. Brolin is astounding and anchors the great supporting cast. He is an interesting casting choice, given he has tried to get out of his own father's shadow (Mr. Streisand, actor James Brolin).

The problem with the film is it never really plants its feet as to where it wants to be: Political satire? Straight-up comedic biopic? Extended metaphor for a begotten son's relationship with his father? It is in these criticisms that the film faults on near perfection.

Nevertheless, *W* will be debated and discussed for a long time.

Maybe what attracted Stone to the project was his similarity to Bush: politics or not, you either love him or hate him. You decide.

C I N E M A

Quarantine

Reviewed by Kimberly Salton

"On March 11, 2008, the government sealed off an apartment complex in Los Angeles. The residents were never seen again. No details. No witnesses. No evidence. Until now." Quarantine, directed by John Erick Dowdle, stands out as a surprisingly decent scary movie in the mist of all the usual pathetic attempts that have come before it. The above tagline alone is enough to send chills up and down your spine.

The plot is simple, a young television reporter, Angela Vidal (Jennifer Carpenter) and her cameraman, Scott Percival (Steve Harris) are spending the night shift with some Los Angeles firefighters at their station when they receive a routine 911 call that sends them to an apartment building.

Upon arriving at the scene, it is discovered that the police are already present, investigating the scream of a woman who has been infected with something. When a few of the other residents are viciously attacked, they try to escape and discover that the CDC has quarantined the building. The officials in charge won't relay any information to those trapped inside the building and all who have not been infected have come to realize that they won't get out alive. By the time the quarantine is lifted, the cameraman's chilling footage supplies the only evidence of the horror that unfolded on that dreadful night.

Not since *The Blair Witch Project*, have I seen a documentary horror movie and refreshingly there was no feeling that I was robbed of \$12.50 or 1 hour and 29 minutes of my life. It felt like it was actual footage since there

was no other information provided or shown other than what was captured on the camera.

The credibility was backed up by the amazing camera angles. For example there is a scene where the camera is on the floor looking through a window and a scene where Scott beats one of the infected to death with the camera and then points it near a mirror where his reaction can be seen. It was gruesome, most of the movie is, but it gave the feeling of something so real.

The ending of the movie, to my disappointment, was rather abrupt. It was understandable since the idea was you were watching actual footage but it left me confused and asking many questions and I am sure that I was not alone in that. Everyone in the theater literally didn't move until they realized, yep, that's it. Be warned, it is a put-the-pieces-together-and-figure-out-what-happened, kind of movie.

Every actor exhibited solid performances with special note to Carpenter (*Dexter* and *Emily Rose*) and Harris (*The Practice*), who were very convincing. However by the end I just wanted her character Angela to die because she wouldn't stop with her over the top crying and freaking out. The casting made it more believable because the mix of people are the kind that you can see living in apartments, even though it felt at one point that the performances became very zombie-like.

If you are looking for a movie to see this Halloween, that won't be a total waste of the money coming out of your pocket in this shaky economy, check out *Quarantine* in a theater near you.

Max Payne

Reviewed by Jeff Kopp

Mark Wahlberg stars as Max Payne, a detective who takes the law into his own hands and is hell-bent on finding the criminals who murdered his wife and newborn child.

After being reassigned to desk work after the murder, Wahlberg devotes his work and life toward investigating his wife's cold case. During his investigation, Wahlberg finds an ally in Mila Kunis, a Russian mobster who leads Wahlberg toward an answer to his questions. Kunis introduces Wahlberg to a drug named Valkyr, which was created with the intent to make soldiers more powerful in combat but has side effects that cause hallucinations.

While on the drug, users imagine winged demons that often have physical properties, which make the audience wonder if they're actually hallucinations or not.

The demons are only the start of the confusion that Max Payne brings. The plot is so hard to follow at times, the only thing that keeps the audience

interested are the cool effects and gun fights.

Fans of the Max Payne video game will most likely be disappointed after seeing this film. Like many video-game based movies, the story has only a slight resemblance to the game. One of the best features that made the game a hit was the slow motion bullet time. In the movie, bullet time is used sparingly and often doesn't live up to its full potential. Considering what *The Matrix* brought to the table of slow motion, Max Payne isn't up to par with its bullet time.

However, Max Payne does keep true to the game by using video game camera angles and voice-overs that make the movie interesting while the plot is lost. Also keeping the interest of viewers are intense and thrilling gunfights that often have Max Payne up against large numbers of enemies, always with Payne coming out on top.

Max Payne offers little in the story department and tries to make up for it with action. Although it doesn't quite succeed as a great action movie, it's not a bad one.





Amanda Rottschalk

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BASKETBALL SEASON SET TO TIP OFF

BY JAKE WIDLowski

The Joliet Junior College men's basketball team won 26 games, advanced to the national tournament, and went all the way to the national championship game a season ago. The success of last season is an accomplishment that most players and coaches would be proud of. However, the 2008-2009 version of the basketball team would like to build on that success and be named national champions by season's end.

JJC has had their fair share of "almost but not enough" moments in the past few years. In the past ten years, the Wolves have advanced to the national tournament four times and played in the national championship game two times, but have never been able to walk away as champions.

The Wolves are hoping that this is the season that they can finally win it all. JJC is a very deep team that lost only two key players from last season. Ryan Owens and Adam Short are gone to graduation and unfortunately their combined average of 30 points per game won't be coming back either.

"The expectations that we have in our program are always very high. Our goal every season is to win a national championship," said head coach Joe Kuhn.

With such a prestigious history of basketball here at JJC, the national pundits have already taken notice of this year's team. JJC is ranked #2 in the NJCAA preseason polls, and sophomore Teray Whisby was selected

as a preseason first team All-American. Whisby averaged 11 points and eight rebounds a game last season, and will spend most of his time in the low post.

In addition to Whisby, the Wolves return Neal Hudson, Jake Sullivan, Brandon Williams and Marcus Moore. Lamar Williams was last season's starting point guard and will be also be returning for the team.

In years past JJC has been known as a team that has excellent shooters and runs a great transition offense. However, Kuhn would like to see his team get the ball in the post a little more this season.

"This year I anticipate having a very well balanced team with a little bit slower of a style that we have played. We are always looking to score easy buckets in transition but will pound it inside a bit," said Kuhn.

Kuhn has had a lot of success here at JJC and has racked up an overall record of 238-125 in his twelve seasons as the head coach. When asked if there were any early season games he was looking forward to, he replied, "when you are consistently rated in the top ten, have had the success that we have had nationally, every game is big because everyone brings their best game for you."

The Wolves will begin their season on Nov. 8 when they play Daley College at home. Game time is set for 7 p.m.

The 2008-2009 Joliet Junior College women's basketball team has all the ingredients to put together another quality season this year.

First year head coach Shaun Sanderson takes over the Lady Wolves team that finished 20-11 a season ago under former head coach Tony Giese. This is Sanderson's first ever head coaching position. In the past he was an assistant at Joliet Township High School and was also the assistant coach for the past three seasons here at JJC.

The success of this year's team will rely heavily on the shoulders of sophomore Martha Benjamin. Benjamin not only brings size and athleticism to the table, but she also has great knowledge and understanding of the game of basketball. As a freshman she averaged a double-double with 14 points and 11 rebounds per game. Coach Sanderson couldn't help gushing about his second year star.

"In our conference, not only was Martha the tallest person but she was probably also the strongest. In just the couple preseason games we have had so far, she has made a tremendous impact," said Sanderson.

A complete team effort is needed in order to consistently win games, however. The Lady Wolves will also depend upon sophomore Chelsea Crawford. Her stats are not eye-popping by any means, but according to Sanderson she does the small things that will help win games this season.

Crawford is one of the best defenders that JJC has and she will be relied upon to defend not only opposing guards, but even some taller players as well.

Point guard Shakya Robinson from Joliet West, Ronchisha Mitchell also from Joliet West and Candace Berryhill from Richards High School are all freshmen that will need to make an immediate impact for the Lady Wolves this season. These girls will have to fill the gap left by the departure of standout guard Shantel Johnson, who averaged a team high 19 points per game last year.

Look for JJC to play in an up tempo style of play with fast breaks being their first look. However, when the fast break is not available the team will look to get Benjamin the ball in the post.

"For the majority of the time we will run a man-to-man defense, but I am one who will do whatever it takes to win, so later on in the season we will play some zone also," replied Sanderson when asked what type of defense the Lady Wolves will run this season.

According to the NJCAA polls, the Lady Wolves are ranked #10 to start the 08-09 campaign.

"This is my first time at this position (head coach), and I am very excited. Everyday I get more and more excited as the season approaches," said Sanderson.

JJC begins their season on Nov. 6 against Prairie State College. Their first home game is against Milwaukee Area Tech on Nov. 22.



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Lady Wolves fall in title game

Christina Conferz

Staff Writer

The Joliet Junior College women's soccer team began the season with a great start despite the complications that the team encountered. Having to forfeit two games due to a shortage of players, the team still pulled through to win the conference championship.

On Oct. 25, the Lady Wolves went head to head with the number two seed in their conference, the College of DuPage, for the regional championship title.

Going into the game, Head coach Gino DiNardo was confident in his team, "They have worked hard and came a long way, I think they have a good chance, a very good chance."

The Lady Wolves played a tough game but the outcome was a 2-1 loss. Sophomore Kira Thompson scored the goal for the Lady Wolves with the assist from April Kutcbinski.

Prior to the game against the COD, the Lady Wolves defeated Triton College 4-0 in the opening round of the Region IV Playoffs on Oct. 21. Kutcbinski scored two goals both assisted by Thompson. Veronica Gutierrez and Kate Stromberg each scored a goal. Goalkeepers Michele Del Sarto and Brenda Tellez combined for four saves.

The Lady Wolves finished the season with a 10-7-1 record overall.



Photo By Mike DiNovo

Sophomore Kate Stromberg attempts to shoot one past Harper's goal keeper in a game earlier this season.

Women's Volleyball

Postseason play right around the corner for the Lady Wolves

Jake Widowski

Sports Editor

The postseason is quickly approaching for the Joliet Junior College women's volleyball team. After the disappointing 0-9 start to the season, the Lady Wolves have steadily improved their play throughout the past month and a half.

JJC currently sits at 9-22, 2-5 against N4C opponents.

The problem for the Lady Wolves so far this season has been consistency.

The team wins a game or two and then follows those up with a loss. They haven't been able to string together a consistent winning streak.

One of the roadblocks for them has been losing players due to injuries and illnesses. The team has lost two girls due to illnesses

during this important time of the season. JJC has yet to play in a tournament this year with their full roster intact. Head coach Jennifer Peterson still believes the team is making strides despite their sub-par record.

"We've overcome a lot of obstacles, and I think we're a lot better than we were at the

"We've overcome a lot of obstacles, and I think we're a lot better than we were at the beginning of the year, but I don't think it's always reflected in our record."

Jennifer Peterson, head coach

beginning of the year, but I don't think it's always reflected in our record," said Peterson.

JJC was seeking a much needed victory against Triton College on Oct. 14, but the game was cancelled in the first game of the match. The Wolves jumped on top of the winless Triton team

with an early lead but the game was cancelled due to a broken nose suffered by one of the girls from Triton.

The following weekend JJC lost two straight games against Lincoln and Kaskaskia College.

"We've overcome a lot of obstacles, and I think we're a lot better than we were at the beginning of the year, but I don't think it's always reflected in our record."

"I am very excited for regionals to start because I think we will be at our peak by the time the tournament starts," said Peterson.

The Lady Wolves played their last home game of the season on Oct. 28 against Black Hawk College.

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Sports

Wolves gear up for playoffs

Jacob Boersma
Staff Writer

After starting the season with a 1-3 record, the Joliet Junior College football team has been on somewhat of a run over the last couple of weeks.

The Wolves extended their winning streak to two with a convincing 55-7 victory against non-conference opponent Carthage College JV on Oct. 19. JJC showcased their versatility in a game that featured four different running backs scoring touchdowns on the ground, as well as three different wide receivers catching touchdowns.

The game against Rock Valley College seemed to be just what the Wolves needed to boost their confidence back up. They came away with a 31-12 win on Oct. 11, the final home game of the season. Terry Whisby led all receivers with two touchdowns and Carlos Johnson had one touchdown, along with a game-high 149 receiving yards. Quarterback Chris Walley went 13-17 for 227 yards and 3 touchdowns. Anthony Echols again continued his stellar season with eight solo tackles.

The Wolves currently have a

4-4 record and are 3-4 in conference games with one more coming up against Grand Rapids.

Since the 1-3 mark to start the season, the Wolves are 3-1 in the last 4 games. Head coach Jeremy Richardson is pleased with the current play.

"These guys are really starting to understand what we are trying to accomplish. I tell them every week, the other team isn't just coming out to play football; they're here to beat us," said Coach Richardson.

Clearly this message has gotten to the players, and they have responded nicely by stepping up

their play. Johnson is still going strong catching at least one receiving touchdown in three of his last four games. Echols is having a stellar season as he is ranked as one of the nation's top linebackers in tackles with 81 solo tackles. Trey Jackson is another leader at defensive tackle, he leads the team in sacks with seven.

With a 4-4 record and 3-4 in conference, the Wolves are looking at a number 2 seed in the playoffs depending on how they do against Grand Rapids. The playoffs will begin on November 1, but the opponent for the Wolves is yet to be determined.



Photo by Mike DiNero

Quarterback Chris Walley drops back for a pass in a recent game against Carthage College.



Photo by Mike DiNero

Jeris Pendleton scores a touchdown while being backed by Garrick Brown against

Wolves advance to regional championship

Josh Green
Staff Writer

The Joliet Junior College men's soccer team bounced back when it counted the most, with an exciting 2-1 win in the first round of the Region IV Tournament on Oct. 22 over Harper College. Matt Philbin scored one goal and assisted in one goal and Arturo Rios scored the other goal. Goalkeeper Shaun Etherington had 6 saves during the game.

Prior to the win over Harper, the Wolves had dropped three straight games. They have proven to be a team that never gives up. Head coach Cristobal Trillo believes that every single player on his team has improved since the beginning of the season.

"The team has made the expected progress this season because they worked very hard during the pre-season," said Trillo.

The Wolves fell to South Suburban College 5-2, on Oct. 13. They also were defeated by

Lincoln Land Community College 2-0, on Oct. 11. The Wolves suffered a loss from N4C conference opponent Triton College 1-0 on Oct. 8. This left the Wolves at 1-3 in the N4C conference.

All these losses came on the road, and with a 6-1-1 record at home, the Wolves have refused to let any team push them around on their home field.

The Wolves (10-6-1) now await their next opponent in the tournament with high hopes of taking the championship title with

them.

"I give the whole team credit for our record. They have all, as a team, passed my expectations. This is a group of kids that makes coaching rewarding because of their dedication and seriousness. Regardless of how the team does in the playoffs, it has been a pleasure to coach this group of players," said Trillo.

Trillo expects his team to play their best possible soccer during this important time of the season.

"We get a lot of respect in the

league and our goal is to at least win the Region but we would love to win the District Championship. We know it will be hard but I have total confidence in this team."

The Wolves next appearance in the tournament will be against either Triton College or Waubesa Community College in the regional championship match on Oct. 25. The venue of the game has yet to be determined.

MALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

BY JAKE WIDLANSKI



Sophomore linebacker Anthony Echols is shutting opposing offenses down and is headlining a solid defense for the Wolves. Echols had 7 tackles against Ellsworth Community College and 8 tackles against Rock Valley. He also added an interception in a game against North Iowa Area Community College. Echols is ranked ninth in the nation among junior college defenders with 81 individual tackles on the season.



Michelle Del Sarto is one of the best goal keepers in the NJCAA, recording 149 saves on the season. Del Sarto recorded 8 saves in the game against Trinity International University JV. The following game she helped record a shutout against Triton College in the first round of the Region IV playoffs, allowing the Lady Wolves to advance to the championship game. Del Sarto has only allowed 15 goals all season.

Joliet Junior College BLAZER

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Professor Jon Laratta reads to the kids at the JJC children's center on Halloween. To see the full story and photos, go to page 7

OBAMA WINS

CAN HE CHANGE EDUCATION? YES, HE CAN!

Kat Kozlowski

Production Manager

COMMENTARY

As everyone on campus has already been informed, Barack Obama swept the vote with a landslide win as the first African American president. What does this mean for America and the education system? It means change. Obama plans to take education to a new level by changing No Child Left Behind, investing in early childhood education and making college affordable to all Americans. Not only will students be benefiting from Obama's position in office, teachers will be benefiting too.

In an interview with Fox News in April, Obama mentions a change in teachers pay.

"But I think that having assessment tools and then saying, 'You know what? Teachers who are on career paths to become better teachers, developing

working teacher that strives for excellence. This way, the teachers who are proving themselves will be finally rewarded instead of being put

assignments..."

With the compensation will be higher accountability, which will allow schools to get rid of ineffective teachers.

With better teachers, comes better education. Obama plans to bring the best and brightest teachers to every school across the country, regardless of how rich or poor the neighborhoods are. Along with teachers will come after school and summer educational programs, however, Obama stresses the need for parents to also be involved with their children's education.

No Child Left Behind has been a topic spoken of for years; Obama wants a change

"With the changing economy, no one has lifetime employment, but community colleges provide lifetime employability."

- Barack Obama

themselves professionally—that we should pay excellence more. I think that's a good idea."

Obama believes in merit pay based on career instead of a single standardized test, which will benefit every hard-

in the same category as the rest. According to Obama's campaign packet "Blueprint for Change," "Obama will improve teacher compensation by rewarding expert, accomplished teachers for taking on challenging

See Obama Page 3

Referendum passes at JJC

Money to be used to fund Master Plan

Jim Sheldon

Co-Editor-In-Chief

Voters in JJC's seven-county district passed the college's \$89 million bond referendum, with 52 percent approving it. The college hadn't had a referendum passed since 1974. In 2003, when the college last asked for an increase, the measure was decisively defeated.

The \$70 million bond issue was sold Oct. 22 which was tied to the Phase One Master Plan projects, which included the campus center, facility services building, greenhouse/horticulture facility and an additional 1,600 parking spaces on the main campus.

Connected to the college's master plan, the referendum supports Phase Two of the Master Plan which includes the construction of a new \$45 million nursing and allied health building, which will help expand the college's physical therapy assistant and dental hygiene programs. The plan will also create a \$15 million culinary art and hospitality facility, automotive service technology expansion and the expansion of science labs. The referendum is estimated to cost the homeowner of a \$200,000 home \$15 per year.

College officials also highlighted the economic impact of the college, estimating that the master plan will create about 2,000 construction jobs and 6,000 new career opportunities for district residents.

"We are excited that the voters of District 525 have supported this building bond referendum," said Board of Trustees chairman Robert Wunderlich.

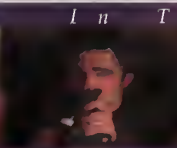
"Because of the master plan, Joliet Junior College will continue to be an engine for educational and economic vitality in the district."

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In This Issue



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Men's Basketball p.16

No love for the Green Party

Unice you've been living in a box the past few weeks, you should know that Barack Obama soundly beat John McCain to become the first African-American president of the United States.

Regardless of its outcome, this election was a historic one for a few reasons. The first being Obama being elected president and the second being Sarah Palin running for vice-president, the first female to run for VP with a major party since Geraldine Ferraro ran as a Democrat in 1984.

We covered the election in previous issues of the *Blazer* first focusing on McCain and Obama and what they believed in and their campaign in the Oct. 15 issue. We focused on the final debate between the candidates and the results of it in the Oct. 29 issue.

That being said, we received an email on Oct. 27 from Tim Tacker, the chairperson of the Will County Green Central Committee. It's refreshing to see that people who aren't on campus read the paper though, that's always good to know.

In his email, he asks why we decided to cover only two of the three legally established, major

political party candidates in Illinois in our Oct. 15 issue. He also

asked if we planned to run stories on the other candidates, or at least Cynthia McKinney, the only remaining legally established, major political party candidate running in the race. Sorry Cindy but we're not doing a story on you and the reason is simple.

We like the rest of the country, we're focusing

on the candidates that had a shot to win! The debates were between Obama and McCain, there was no Green Party, Independent, Constitution or Libertarian candidates at the debates.

This was not like the situation in 2000 when George W. Bush defeated Al Gore by 537 votes in the deciding state of Florida. Green Party candidate Ralph Nader got 97,421 votes. In fact,

EDITORIAL

Sure enough election night rolled around and what do you know, not one mention of another presidential candidate except for McCain and Obama. Shocking, we know!

all seven of the other third-party candidates.

on the ballot in Florida each received more than 537 votes. The claim was that Nader had helped make Bush president, not so this year.

This election was not close and wasn't projected to be close and regardless of that an independent candidate was n't going to win the nomination.

The situation that occurred in the movie *Man of the Year* where a computer error made the independent candidate the president of the United States wasn't going to happen here.

Tacker also said that political parties in Illinois are legally divided into NEW political parties and ESTABLISHED political parties.

The Democratic Party, the Republican Party and the Green Party are the only three legally

established, major political parties statewide and within every jurisdiction therein according to Tacker.

Sure enough election night rolled around and what do you know, not one mention of another presidential candidate except for McCain and Obama. Shocking we know!

In case you were wondering because we're guessing you don't know this, Nader finished third in the election with 697,128 votes, a whopping 57 million less than McCain. And you wonder why we covered only Obama and McCain, perhaps we knew something.

The rise of the independent parties has yet to occur and there's nothing saying it won't happen in the near future or maybe 50 years down the line.

But there's always the possibility that the independent parties are similar to the Socialist Party of America meaning they will fade away soon and eventually have little impact on the presidential elections.

But until one independent party has a candidate with an actual shot at being the commander-in-chief, we're going to continue to focus on the candidates from the major parties seeing as how one of them will be the president.

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The Pop Culture Commentary

Will SNL crash and burn after the election? You bet'cha!

with Shelley Holmgren

Thanks to the election, this season has been a monumental one for the sketch comedy show *Saturday Night Live*. The show received its first jump in popularity when now president-elect Barack Obama appeared in a Halloween skit over a year ago when he was first garnering the Democratic Party's favor against the ever fire-breathing Sen. Hillary Clinton. This appearance initially gave Obama favor in the primaries and it is all history from there.

This season's premiere alone on Sept. 13 received more than 10 million viewers, the best ratings for an *SNL* premiere since 2001. Gov. Sarah Palin and her infamous dance moves appeared on the show on Oct. 18, garnering 14 million viewers for *SNL*, the highest rating for the show in 14 years.

However, a sad fact that we have to face is that the biggest draw for this season was not a current cast member, but one by the good graces who decided to come back and instill two words into our heart forever; you bet'cha. Tina Fey, who made comedic history this year with her genuine replication of Palin, has gone on record to say that with the finale of the elections will come the curtain call of our most beloved impression of the gun-wielding governor. Please, let us

all observe a moment of silence for the great loss to our country. Although it will be difficult, we must move on.

Other memorable *SNL* performances include veteran Will Ferrell reprising his role as George "Dubya" Bush, a performance that will reach its final expiration date on Jan. 20. I could say that my heart will be broken, but I will go on record to say that it will be the happiest day of my life. Adios, Señor Bush. Another season vet made a return this season was Maya Rudolph, who took the role of the new future first lady, the fabulously fierce, Michelle Obama.

Personally, I can only strain to find one reason for Sen. John McCain to have won the election - we would have been seeing a lot more of Darrell Hammond's McCain, which easily overwhelms Fred Armisen's sandpaper-dry Obama rendition. Republicans rejoice - this will be the one situation where McCain actually does win Virginia. And although Jason Sudeikis treated us to a promising Joe Biden, I don't see a frequent reprise of a Biden or Obama performance in *SNL*'s future.

One of the hardest losses that this season had to face was the abrupt departure of Amy Poehler,

who this season gave us dead-lock impersonations of both Clinton as well as real-life anchor Katie Couric. Poehler left the show to give birth to her son Archie on Oct. 30 with husband and fellow

Republicans rejoice - this will be the one situation where McCain actually does win Virginia.

comedian Will Arnett on hand to make insanely inappropriate jokes during the birth. I have to say, Poehler is a lucky woman for seducing that great man.

Unfortunately, Poehler's absence on show night left poor Seth Meyer's to handle *Weekend Update* solo, and it looks like it is going to be that way for a while. Now, before you all throw yourselves into a vicious frenzy about the sketch being a one-man-show, please reflect on past *NU* anchors Dennis Miller, Norm MacDonald and Kevin Nealon who handled the task quite fashionably, thank you very much.

Poehler's future plans include appearing in a mockumentary show created by the same great minds who gave us *The Office*. To Poehler, I wish her good bye and good luck and hope that

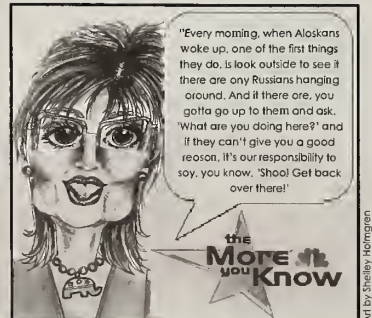
her primetime career reaches the glorious success of Fey's 30 Rock.

The problem that arises now that the show is sans Amy is a seriously estrogen deprived cast list.

One female cast member, Kristen Wiig, remains in the testosterone dominated Studio 8H. *SNL* announced last week that two new female cast members will be making their debuts; Abby Elliott and Michaela Watkins. Hopefully Elliott, whose father is veteran *SNL* cast member Chris Elliott, alongside Watkins will be able to fill the shoes of past

SNL female greats such as Molly Shannon, Cheryl Oteri and Julia Sweeney. Helpful, but doubtful.

The show is also attempting to keep a little vivacity in their lineup by enlisting some A-list hosts including Ben Affleck, Paul Rudd, and a rumored Brinley Spears. Although I am ecstatic for the resurrection of the post-Federline pop princess, *SNL* shouldn't hold their breath for the devoted fan turnout they've gained this past election year. Although these efforts are promising in their intentions, it's going to take even more than Sarah Palin's wardrobe budget to save this comedy classic.



Art by Shelley Holmgren

My fellow Democrat...

An open statement to President-elect Barack Obama



Matt Sheehan
Staff Writer

Many of you are wondering what a film critic is writing about politics. And to answer that question, I say this: I have a non-motion picture opinion. I wish to share with you.

On November 4, Americans made history by electing Barack Obama as our next president of the United States, the first African-American commander-in-chief.

Did I vote for him? That is for you to figure out. However, I will testify to my political standing: I am a moderate with a slight left-liberal leaning. Now, for the important part—the issues.

1.) I am a Democrat who supports us staying in Iraq. One year

ago, if you asked me what we needed to do, I would've quickly answered with "Get out of there now, damn it!" There was a film from last year called *Charlie Wilson's War*, starring Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts. The movie is based on the covert funding the U.S. did via the CIA black-ops to help the mujahidin freedom fighters fend off the Soviet invaders in the northern section of Afghanistan.

Initially, only a few million dollars was being spent, but by the end of the covert operation in the late 1980s, \$1 billion was spent.

The Soviet soldiers marched out, and the Afghan rebels rejoiced. Then it came time to rebuild—schools, government, police, military, economy—and we turned our backs on those.

One of those mujahidin soldiers took the money, weapons and training the U.S. supplied and stuck it right back up our behinds. His name was Osama bin Laden.

I propose to president-elect Obama that the one issue that held people's political position in the beginning of the campaign still is a priority, but his desire

to pull out of Iraq immediately will be met with harsh problems in the future. Sure, we've helped start the democratic government but we also stirred up a civil war. While the information linking Saddam Hussein to the 9/11 terrorists proved false, packing our bags now will leave a vulnerable and fragile hole in the Middle East for anyone to exploit and subsequently provide that terrorist connection.

2.) Helping spread the wealth around is a thoughtful idea. Watching the top 1% of our nation hoard the most money while

"I propose to President-elect Obama that the one issue that held people's political position in the beginning of the campaign still is a priority, but his desire to pull out of Iraq immediately will be met with harsh problems in the future."

some of those rich folks a) run companies that outsource long-held American jobs or b) run the financial sector that has put less-wealthy, middle and lower-class citizens on foreclosure curb is anti-American.

However, we are still a country that is staunchly against Communism. In these delicate financial times, don't cross the fine line between balance and Marx-

ism. Sure, making a level financial playing field looks great on paper, but so did the Cubs chances at a World Series this year.

3.) The economy is in a recession. There is no question about that; there is no point in denying it. It is happening right now. The economy was the main issue that took over the campaigns and election news. Both sides came out swinging with ways to knock the rotten market off its feet. Let us all keep in mind that one person's idea has, essentially, been chosen with Obama's election. Criticism of his decisions cannot hold water... yet. Wait a year, and then talk. Keep in mind that everybody has an answer to the problem; nobody has the answer.

With a war waging on, Americans booted from their homes and an economy in crumbles, Obama has promised hope and change along the campaign trail. He made history. After his acceptance speech in Grant Park on election night, after all those promises for the challenges ahead, after the life-defining history we, as voters, created, I couldn't help but think of the very last scene of the Robert Redford film, *The Candidate*.

What do we do now?

LETTER POLICY

The Blazer welcomes and encourages participation by our readers. Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters to verify authenticity. Letters should be 300 words or fewer. We reserve the right to edit for space and content. You may send your letter through inter-office mail, postal mail, email at blazermail@jlc.edu, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office in F-1009.

CORRECTION

IN THE LAST ISSUE, THE PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT ON PAGE 6 HAD THE WRONG STAFF WRITER PRINTED. KELSIE LOFSDAHL WROTE THE STORY, NOT ALLY FLANERY.

Bond, from page 1

A fee of \$9 per credit hour was approved by the Board of Trustees for fall 2008-2009.

Partnerships will fund additional projects, such as the joint venture between JJC and the YMCA on a capital campaign to privately raise an estimated \$30 million for a fitness center.

"The passage of the referen-

dum will allow JJC to offer quality education in high demand fields such as nursing and allied health, automotive, and culinary arts and hospitality to our district's residents."

"I am very proud of you because as students, you truly embraced the concept of shared responsibility by funding the phase

one projects of the master plan. We appreciate your support," said Proulx in a statement released after the passage of the referendum.

For more information on the college's master plan, visit www.jjc.edu/masterplan.

Obama, from page 1

in the way this program is run. He plans to bring a positive change to this by restoring the sense of urgency regarding the educational system.

"We need to focus on fixing and improving our public schools, not throwing our hands up and walking away from them," said Obama.

The best way in which the system can change, he believes is by funding this program with a proposed \$1 billion education reform effort and re-focusing education on learning instead of test scores once again.

Obama also plans to start a Children's First Agenda that provides care, learning and support to families with children from birth up to five years old, according to "Blueprint for Change."

This means a start on early education to make sure that all children are at the same or a similar learning level when entering school.

So what's left for college

College students may soon be getting the opportunity to receive up to \$4,000 for tuition, leaving community college, such as JJC, almost, if not, completely free of charge.

students? College students may soon be getting the opportunity to receive up to \$4,000 for tuition, leaving community college, such as JJC, almost, if not, completely free of charge.

Of course there is a catch, 100 hours of community service, that

is. By completing 100 hours of community service, students will receive a \$4,000 tax credit based on the new American Opportunity Tax Credit.

Obama also plans on making the application process for financial aid easier by,

"Eliminating the current federal financial aid application and enabling families to apply simply by checking a box on their tax form, authorizing their tax information to be used and eliminating the need for a separate application," according to the campaign web site.

America can clearly see that Obama is very strong on his views on education. We can hope this means a positive change in the educational system and its structure.

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LINDEN OAKS REPRESENTATIVES LEAD SUICIDE TALK ON CAMPUS

Shawn Faust
Co-Editor-In-Chief

On Tuesday November 6 and Thursday November 13, guests Karen Sommers and Sean Youngstott from Linden Oaks Hospital in Naperville, were asked by Pam Dilday, director of student activities, to give presentations on Suicide and Self-injury Prevention. The purpose of the presentations were to educate students of the psychiatric illnesses and warning signs associated with suicide and self-injury as well as to provide information regarding where help can be reached for those suffering to thus prevent suicide or self-injury from happening.

For those suffering Sommers says, "Get professional help would be my advice. Go to a school counselor and let them know what is going on. They can

refer you to whatever services you may need. There are 24 hour hotlines and 24 hour hospital emergency rooms that can also be accessed for help."

On campus, the Holistic Well-

ness Center features the Student Assistance Program that seeks to help students have a positive experience in school and cope effectively with the pressures of daily living. Also available free

through this program is individual counseling with a professional, licensed, clinical counselor.

Beyond campus, Linden Oaks Hospital, a free standing behavioral health hospital, offers free

health assessments 24/7 to anyone who presents themselves to them and treats all behavioral health concerns including psychiatric illnesses such as, but not limited to, depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety, chemical dependency, eating disorders, self injury and dementia. Treatments are not free but are confidential and are covered under most insurances.

A licensed clinical social worker for Linden Oaks, Sommers received her masters in social work from Loyola University and has been doing direct clinical work in psychiatric hospitals for the past 9 1/2 years and has been working in hospitals in general for the past 25+ years.

Regarding her suicide prevention presentation, Sommers states, "I hope that my talk helped students by making them aware of warning signs and risk factors of suicidal behavior."

Warning signs of suicidal behavior:

- Abrupt changes in personality
- Relationship issues
- Feeling that there are no options/alternatives
- Changes in eating and sleeping
- Drop in grades
- Fixation with death or violence
- Neglecting hygiene and appearance
- Anxiety
- Giving away possessions
- Previous attempts
- Restlessness
- Trouble concentrating
- Talking about suicide
- Increase in the use of alcohol and/or drugs
- Withdrawal from people, not going to classes
- Risky behaviors
- Saying things like:
"I wish I was dead."
"I'm going to quit it all."
"You will be better off without me."
"What's the point in living?"
"Soon you won't have to worry about me."
"Who cares if I'm dead anyway?"

If someone you know exhibits a number of these warning signs, whom you can do to help is to listen to them, be supportive, ask them direct questions about their thoughts and plans, avoid being judgmental or arguing, and express your concern to a responsible person, above all do not keep it a secret. As Sommers notes, "An angry friend is better than a dead friend."

24 Hour Hotlines:

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1 (800) 273-TALK or 1 (800) SUICIDE
Will County Crisis Unit: (815) 727-8521
Linden Oaks Hospital: (630) 305-5500

Other Resources:

Suicide Prevention Source Center: www.sprc.org
American Association of Suicidology: www.suicidology.org
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention: www.afsp.org
Suicide Prevention, Awareness and Support: www.suicide.org

Audience responds to Vets Day ceremony

Rob Langton
Staff Writer

Veterans Day has always had an impact on people throughout the United States and especially on the students here at Joliet Junior College.

On Nov. 10 at 1:00 pm, students, faculty, administrators and military service men and women gathered on the center bridge for the Veterans Day Ceremony.

The event was put together and orchestrated by student trustee Deborah Doyle, who also began the ceremony with opening remarks and a prayer.

Afterwards, JJC President Dr. Gena Proulx made a few comments on the event.

After the opening remarks made by Doyle and Proulx, came the recognition of veterans. One by one, each military branch was announced and the service men and women representing that branch were asked to stand.

U.S. Army reservist Staff Sgt. Susan Mejia recited the poetry reading portion of the Veterans Day event.

When Mejia was asked how Veterans Day was important to her, she said, "It didn't mean a lot to me at first, until I experienced the armed services first hand."

Mejia said she agreed to speak at the Veterans Day event because she wanted to express her opinions on what veterans are going through, and to "make people aware."

After the poetry reading by Staff Sgt. Mejia, JJC student and vocalist William Bardel sang "America the Beautiful", accompanied by Phil Spencer on the

piano.

The ceremony was closed by comments from the service members at the event.

When the ceremony was concluded, Student Trustee Deborah Doyle had much to say on the outcome of the Veterans Day event.

"Seeing a young Marine snap to attention at the sound of the Marine Corps Hymn touches my heart deeply and takes my breath away! When I saw him arrive in his dress blues with some knowledge of the efforts he made that allow him the right and the honor to wear that uniform - I find it very difficult to be unemotional,"

said Doyle.

When Doyle was asked how she felt after she put the event together she replied, "I feel a sense of accomplishment in that the word with regard to this event went out through the student body and of our students who attended. I want to thank all of those who did."

Doyle also said, "These types of events would be impossible without the commitment of our Office of Student Activities, Pam Dilday and the student workers in her office."



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Success Story: Richard Smerz

69-year-old-man earns
degree from JJC with honors



Richard Smerz

Nicole Zwartz

Copy Editor

Richard Smerz, a farmer for Toepfer Farms, gave Joliet Junior College the honor of listening to his life story through the Success Story Series on Nov. 13. At the age of 69 in 2000, Smerz earned his associate degree from JJC with honors.

Smerz was born in Oak Park and raised on the south side of Chicago. During high school, there was a program called "Crop Core," which was aimed to get city kids to work on a farm in agriculture.

For three years he worked on farmland raising corn, soybeans and wheat, before entering into a carpenter apprentice program after high school.

Starting out with only 45 cents an hour as a carpenter, Smerz worked his way up to become a foreman until the Korean War began. He entered the United States Navy, and after training at the Jacksonville Naval Air Station, attended the Florida Aviation and Electrical School, graduating third in his class.

During his time at Great Lakes, he met Lillian, who would later become his wife of 53 years.

"I am wealthy," Smerz said during his presentation. "I am wealthy because of her."

Lillian Smerz was present during her husband's tribute. She rarely took her eyes off of him and randomly throughout the story-telling, Smerz would pause and point out his wife, and let everyone know that she was his best friend.

After discussing his time in war, Smerz went on to talk about returning to the carpenter trade for

50 more years. He had worked with three contractors during his time in carpentry and announced his proud achievement of building the stairs to the McCormick Place. "Thousands of people walk on those stairs every day," claimed Smerz. "And I made those stairs."

The time came when Smerz and his wife thought about retiring and they chose to build a house just three miles from the farmland he worked on during his youth.

During an exploration of their new surroundings, Smerz decided to stop at JJC because he had never seen it before. They joined a tour of the campus and ended in the Agriculture building. That day Smerz enrolled in two classes for that spring semester.

"I struggled," said Smerz. "I hadn't been in school for 50 years."

He suggested that he would not have gone through it if it were not for his wife's motivation and support, or the help from the teachers and students at JJC.

"It's been marvelous, it's been a wonderful experience. And I tell anyone who is about to retire: Go to your community college. It is never too late."

Lillian Smerz

These people are warm," Smerz said. "They are here for you. They will help you, but you have to ask for it."

Smerz also related how the students helped him with any mechanical issue he could not figure out and he helped them with the

knowledge he achieved during his many years of experience.

To graduate from JJC, Smerz needed to do an internship through the Agriculture program. Jokingly, he said he tried to get out of the internship because he did not see the object to learn about working when he had been working for so long.

He could not get out of it, however, and in 1999 he started his internship with Toepfer Farms, and he has been working there ever since.

Lillian Smerz also suggested that JJC offered them "a whole new life and allowed them to start over."

"It's been marvelous," Mrs. Smerz said. "It's been a wonderful experience. And I tell anyone who is about to retire: Go to school. Go to your community college. It is never too late."

Old time social



Photo by Alicia Diamond

Students of the past and present joined together on Nov. 7 at an old time social to raise money for medications for senior citizens.

Kelsie Lofdahl

Staff Writer

On Nov. 7 from 4-6 p.m., JJC students, JJC faculty/staff and Will County Senior Services Center danced like it was 1940/1950.

With live jazz music by the Jay Mau Orchestra, it was easy for many to have a great time dancing and socializing. Also, ice cream and coffee and tea

were provided, to add on to the 'oldies theme.'

This fun and successful event was a fundraiser to provide short-term emergency medication assistance for those age 60 and above, who struggle to pay necessary prescription medications.

Suggested donations were asked at \$5 and raffle tickets were sold. With every donation given and raffle ticket bought, seniors who are on a fixed income or

have financial issues or cannot receive any other forms of help, were benefited.

There were many raffle tickets sold, but there could only be eight raffle winners. Each winner received a small gift basket.

Overall, The JJC Senior Medication Fundraiser was a well-put-together event and a great opportunity to attend and donate to seniors in need.

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PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT

with Vivian Van Donk



Kelsie Loldahl
Staff Writer

One of the most outgoing and enthused Speech teachers at JJC is Mrs. Vivian Van Donk. Van Donk was born in Joliet, Ill. At first, she did not want to become a teacher because her high school teachers talked her out of it. They had told her she could not make enough money teaching and teaching was not a good career choice.

Van Donk has been teaching at JJC for 25 years. 16 years as a part time teacher and now, a full time teacher of nine years. She has dedicated many years to JJC and to its students.

She received her bachelor's degree in Speech Communication and her master's degree in Mass Communication at Illinois State University.

When asked if she had any advice for students, Van Donk said, "Students should stay at JJC until they receive their associate's degree." She advises all students to stay at JJC because she stated, "Instructors here are dedicated and committed to teaching."

Van Donk believes that JJC is the best way to get started on a college education. With having a small number of students in each classroom compared to a university, she states, "Students receive more one-on-one time with their teachers."

Students say Van Donk is one of the best teachers they have had. They say each lesson is informative and interesting and every class is fun and exciting.

Van Donk is an excellent teacher who expresses every great trait a teacher should have. She is patient about teaching, open with her students and encourages her students always to do well.

Gardening Corner

with Scott Getz



with their evergreen foliage and ability to grow in shade. Generally very easy to maintain and they undoubtedly add a tropical look to the most suburban of landscapes if used correctly-in mass.

Also, I have to ask: Have Illinois gardeners completely forgotten their native succulents? Perfect plants for rock gardens, wildflower gardens and accent plantings, Opuntia species make a lively addition to your winter garden. My favorite of the seven is Opuntia polyantha. With delicate yellow blooms blossoming from a spiny bright green exterior it's plenty enough to spark a conversation. To make it even better, it is evergreen, thus adding to your winter landscape.

My point is gardening is not a stagnant activity. Come cold weather the garden is still very much so alive and the winter garden has as much opportunity for creativity as the spring. Being my first column- email your comments and questions and possible topics to me at sgetz03@jic.edu.

Garden Green Tip:

Does your garden allow winter sun to warm your house? Plant deciduous trees on the south side of your house to block summer sun and allow winter sun to penetrate branches, in turn, warming your house and decreasing those winter heating costs.

If you are working with shade, if your garden is on the north side of your house, let's not forget the ancient fern. Yes, they were the first foliage plants to come onto earth millions of years ago and they are still making their impact

JJC's got talent

Students compete in talent show for cash prize

Shelley Holmgren
Production Manager

On Nov. 17, Joliet Junior College students competed in this year's talent show here on main campus.

The show was organized by Francis "Cell-fis" Owusu, president of the Social Enrichment club as well as professor Jonnie Johnson who is the club's advisor.

The event first occurred last semester where it was met with much success. Owusu initially organized the talent show as a venue to showcase the hidden talent here at JJC. "I suggested the idea and it was welcomed with open arms. A week later, I made fliers and started to promote the event," said Owusu.

After promotion, there were preliminary auditions to narrow down the choices for the final showcase. There was

a very successful turnout for the auditions, making the decisions as to who would make the final cut even more difficult.

"[The students] asked for advice and I told them to just go out and have fun. Enjoy doing your act, because if you don't, the judges and audience will see it, and they won't enjoy your act either," said Owusu.

Owusu felt it was important to bring this showcase to JJC because of his own love of entertainment. He raps and produces in his spare time and even skipped his own prom to compete in a talent show.

"My date was upset at me for canceling last minute, but she understood that music is my life and it meant a lot going on stage doing what I do best."

The acts competing in the show were broken down into four categories: singers, rappers, dancers and instrumentation. Owusu said that it was very

important to him to have a versatile group of talents.

However, this was first and foremost a contest. There were three judges critiquing the talent who "watched every single step and listened to every single note to declare the winner," Owusu said.

The judges used a precise point system to come to their final decision. The first place prize awarded was \$100, second place prize was \$75 and third place was \$50. The money was raised by the Social Enrichment Club.

The show was a great success, but no matter the outcome or winner, Owusu's overall focus was to bring attention to the arts here at JJC.

"It only takes one person to make a difference, and I wanted to be that one to do it," said Owusu.

He plans to transfer from JJC next semester and he hopes that someone will be able to continue this event in the future.

Talent Showcase

ANN AQUINO
DARUIS BANKS
FRANK & PAUL BREEN
JEN GIER
LIQUID G
ANNETTE JONES
PAT LUCKY

ALICE MCCLINE
YOUNG PK
UNDISCOVERED
DO OR DIE
KATIE STROMBERG
HEATHER WASHBURN

GET IT AT NLU

"The small classroom sizes are very helpful; I don't feel like I'm just a number. The personal relationship that I have with staff and faculty is a major reason why I chose National-Louis. The one-on-one is extremely important in my program. We are all in this together—we're a family and we work together."

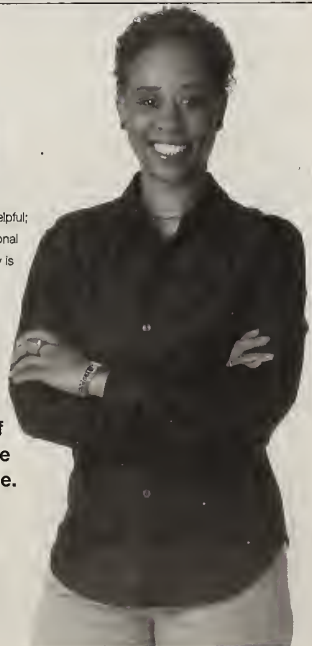
—Adrienne Gill
psychology student

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A Tiger Story

Story and photos by
Alicia Diamond

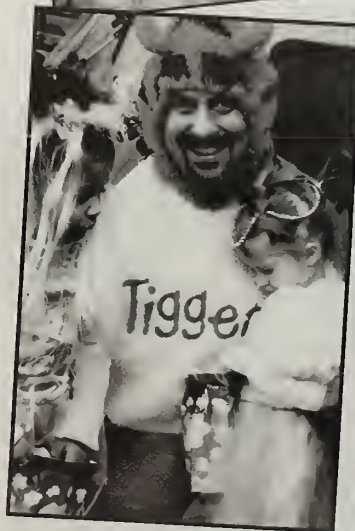
Every year on Halloween, JJC's own, Jon Laratta, wears a "Tigger" costume he found in the middle of July at the Disney store to read to children.

A tradition that has both earned him cat calls, as if he were an attractive woman walking by construction workers and laughter so uncontrollable from his students, they were almost asked to leave his class.

He does this all for the sake of the children in the JJC children's center. After putting on the stifling costume, he leads the children in a costume parade around campus

and reads to them before returning to his classes, but not before a handful of little girls ask if Tigger can stay and read one more. This is all in a days work for a man who's known for his sense of humor in class and his practical applications of information that include how weather patterns resemble the science of a beer bong. Sometimes in your academic career you are lucky enough to come across a professor, who not only pushes you to succeed academically but also encourages you to succeed as a person.

(From top-right going clockwise: Jullonn dressed as Alice in Wonderland, Laratta leads the children in a costume parade, Laratta and the kids show off their costumes, Tigger and kids enjoy the Halloween festivities, Tinkerbell Madeleine smiles for the camera, and Buzz Lightyear Eddie gets ready for takeoff. Laratta reads to the kids in the JJC children's center.)



THE 'TWILIGHT'ZONE

Screaming tweens get rabid at vampire signing

Shelley Holmgren
Production Manager

Question: what do you get when you mix a world-wide bestseller, a British heartthrob and a massive amount of teenage girls?

Answer: chaos.

British actor Robert Pattinson, who plays the lead role of Edward in the film adaptation of the best-seller "Twilight" that his theaters this Friday, was scheduled for a signing at Oriand Square Mall's Hot Topic store at 6 p.m. on Nov. 12.

According to the Hot Topic website, the regulations for the event were that fans could begin lining up as early as 5 a.m. Wednesday morning and purchase a \$30 "Twilight Tour" tee-shirt and receive a wristband that would guarantee access to a signing by Pattinson. All purchases for the wristbands had to be made in person and only the first 500 fans to do so would get to meet the actor, Hot Topic said.

Joliet Junior College students Stacey Adams and Heather Hebert braved the tween crowd in order to see their most beloved actor. According to Adams, both she and Hebert arrived at the mall at 6 a.m. on Wednesday, hoping to beat the massive crowd, only to discover that all of the bracelets had already been sold.

"I was very upset when I found out the wristbands were sold early. I would have lined up 4 p.m. the day before if I knew they were going to be ridiculous like

that," said Hebert.

According to Hebert, she was told by Hot Topic personnel that the tickets were sold out by 2 a.m., disregarding the guidelines that were previously released by Hot Topic and the Oriand Square Mall officials.

From there, desperation flooded the Twilight fans. Adams said that the tickets were being scalped at nearby establishments such as IHOP and Denny's and going for as high as \$200 per bracelet.

Hebert said that the reason she was told the tickets were sold early was in the interest of safety, a decision partly made by the law enforcements present. She, amongst other fans who arrived early for the event, strongly believed that the decision to sell the bracelets early was not justified at all, noting that the police should have been prepared for the turnout.

"It was all over the news about what happened in San Francisco, they should have known better. They should have had police ready to go to kick people off the property until 7:30 a.m. when they should have sold them (bracelets)."

On Nov. 10, two days prior to the Oriand incident, a similar event in San Francisco got out of control when the expected 300 to 500 fans were exceeded to more than a 3,000 person turnout for the breakout British star. In fact, disputes about line position led to a breakout in violence and one girl was seriously injured at the event, although hospitalization was not required. The appearance was then cancelled.

According to Adams, this was not the case at Wednesday's signing.

"There were so many people. It was very hot and very, very



Photo By Stacey Adams

'Twilight' star Robert Pattinson charms fans in front of Macy's department store in Oriand Square Mall on Nov. 12.

employee that Pattinson would be making an appearance in front of Macy's department store for a question-and-answer session at 7:30 p.m. that night.

After waiting in front of a guardrail in a swarming crowd of teenage girls, Adams and Hebert, alongside the other fans were rewarded when Pattinson finally made his appearance on the stage and was met by a massive round of squeals, much to the dismay of the older fans.

"I feel kind of bad for Robert because he has all these crazy fans constantly shouting at him and saying they are in love with him, when they really know nothing about him," said Hebert.

Adams agreed, "A lot of the girls there, as I said before, were there because they view Rob as Edward and only Edward. This perturbed me greatly because the people who were there because we're fans of Rob didn't get a chance to meet him. Pattinson proceeded to charm fans for the 25-minute session. One of the most popular topics that was brought up, surprisingly, was Pattinson's hair. When asked how he styled it, he gave the crowd his winning Edward smile that will surely sell out theaters, and replied, 'I have 12-year-old virgins lick it.'"

After a full day of disappointments, tweens and Twilight moms, was it all worth it? With wide, lovelorn grins, both Adams and Hebert readily agreed. Adams said the experience was "glorious," while Hebert added, "It was definitely worth it."



Kal Kozlowski
Production Manager

Two years ago, a 42-year-old American man living with AIDS in Berlin, who has yet to be identified, was diagnosed with leukemia. Little did doctors know that the bone marrow transplant he received for his leukemia might actually completely eradicate his AIDS. Twenty months later, the American man shows no signs of the disease in his bone marrow, blood and other organ tissue.

Every one in 1,000 Europeans and Americans are born with a genetic mutation inherited from both parents that completely prevents them from the AIDS virus known as Delta 32. This mutation makes people that carry the gene resistant to HIV infection by blocking the receptor CCR5, which prevents the virus from attaching itself to cells.

The German doctor, Gero Huetter, who treated this American man sought out a donor with this rare genetic mutation, and after testing 80 people for this

mutation, the 61st person tested was discovered to carry it.

To be treated for his leukemia, the American man had to be taken off of his AIDS medication so that his bone marrow transplant would not be affected. This would allow his infected bone marrow cells to be killed off and his immune system to be disabled.

The treatment kills 20 to 30 percent of patients receiving it, which is why many scientists are against this

Making a difference together in the fight against AIDS.

Photo courtesy AIDS.gov

treatment unless the leukemia is in its late stages:

Although this man was possibly cured by this treatment, it does not eliminate the expense

of the treatment and the danger of administering it to a patient. Gene therapy, however, is now in the process of being created towards the cure for AIDS. The availability of these treatments is prospected to

approaching on Dec. 1, this case may come as good news to thousands across the country. So what does this mean for students at Joliet Junior College? The possibility of a cure for AIDS may lead to a more educated look as to how it may be successfully treated, and what steps will need to be taken in order for the AIDS epidemic around the globe to be completely wiped out.

Instead of just giving AIDS patients medications to suppress

Hypotheses journal in 1999 reviewed the results of 32 attempts to use this treatment between 1982 and 1996. In two of the 32 cases, the patients showed similar attributes in which the American man is showing.

With World AIDS Day

approaching on Dec. 1, this case may come as good news to thousands across the country.

So what does this mean for students at Joliet Junior College? The possibility of a cure for AIDS may lead to a more educated look as to how it may be successfully treated, and what steps will need to be taken in order for the AIDS epidemic around the globe to be completely wiped out.

Instead of just giving AIDS patients medications to suppress

their disease, treatment centers can be set up where patients can receive gene therapy to fight their disease and maybe even be cured.

Healthcare providers would be in luck instead of out of luck if gene therapy is a cure and could even create more jobs and healthcare specialties geared towards a treatment for the cure.

Have some spare change? Advertise in the Blazer! Email us at blazermail@jjc.edu



Amanda Rottschalk

10 GREAT REASONS TO TRANSFER TO ELMHURST

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Photo By Nicki Blowers

The cast members of 'Biloxi Blues' rehearse for their Nov. 13 - 16 performances.

'BILOXI' ENLISTS AUDIENCES

Shawn Faust

Co-Editor-in-Chief

On dates ranging from Nov. 13 to the 16th, JJC's Fine Arts Department Theater will be featuring the 1985 Tony Award winning play, *Biloxi Blues* written by Neil Simon and directed by JJC professor, Dr. Zachary Bloomfield with technical direction done by faculty member Nicki Blowers with assistance by Terry Hoffman.

Adjunct professor and lighting specialist, Julie Giampolo, was in charge of lighting design with stage management done by students Katie Balegno of Coal City and David Lauritch of Joliet. Lauritch also played the role of Corporal and understudy for the production.

Biloxi Blues opened on Broadway on March 28, 1985 and is a play that follows young army recruit Eugene Morris Jerome, played by JJC student Seth Fuerst, as he and five other enlisted men encounter a demanding drill sergeant, attempt to survive army "food", experience lust and love, and become adults at a boot camp in 1943 in Biloxi, Mississippi.

The cast itself is full of several firsts. For Fuerst, this was his first lead role since he started acting in his junior year of high school. In the past Fuerst has had roles as an ensemble member of *Grease*, every cameo role in *Cinderella*, and the hilarious supporting role of Ostrich in last year's production of *Fortinbras*, for which he was awarded Best Supporting Actor by the fine arts department.

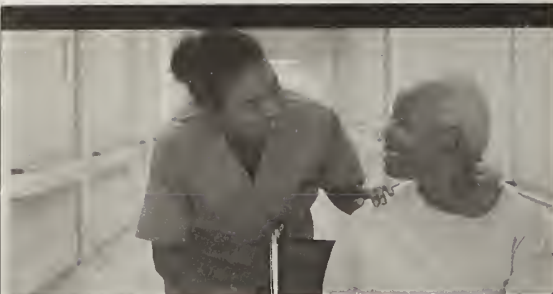
Fuerst's character in this production has never been away from home before going to boot camp and writes about his fellow recruits in fascination. Much of what Eugene writes gave writers an insight into the personalities of the other characters. Fuerst

describes his character as, "kind of a boy at the beginning of the play who becomes a man by the end." Fuerst hoped the audience will understand from his character that, "first impressions aren't everything."

Biloxi Blues also featured debut acting performances of students Nathan Borowski, who played Joseph T. Wycowski, described by Borowski as "a tough guy with a permanent erection who eats candy bars with the wrappers still on," and Andrew Krucich, who played James Hennessey, described by Krucich as, "an honorable soldier that stands up for what is right but is very secretive."

The play also featured returning performances by students Adam Schmidt (*Fortinbras*), as Roy Scridge, "a jerk who idolizes Wycowski, whose only goal is to make him laugh," Mark Parker, as Don Carney, Kyle Blank, as Arnold Epstein, and Mark Wieting, as Sgt. Melvin J. Toomey. Many of the cast members felt very comfortable with their roles, saying that their characters reflected them in real life, and this was seen in their confidence levels preceding their performances.

Although he notes casting is always a challenge, director Bloomfield agrees and expressed that the cast fit perfectly into their roles and did a great job with them. Bloomfield felt that *Biloxi Blues* was a great ensemble piece but was chosen because as he states, "There is an interesting parallel between the play and what is going on today." The play is largely relevant to JJC's student body as it is a coming of age story of kids being out on their own in an age of uncertainty. Borowski agrees and describes the production as, "A versatile dramedy of World War II combining a number of conflicting personalities."



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'A definite page-turner'

Mike Noonan
Staff Writer

From the very first chapter, *Chicago*, by Alaa Al Aswany is a captivating novel, which holds the readers attention from beginning to end. It combines the history of the city of Chicago with the stories of many different characters.

Many of these characters live very different lives and have little in common, but one thing that remains concrete is that all of the main characters are Muslims from Cairo, Egypt and are students and faculty members of the University of Illinois Chicago. The book describes their dealings in moving from an Eastern to a Western society and the changes each character goes through in this.

Al Aswany is apt to keep the reading interesting. In the beginning of the novel, a new and different character is focused upon, providing many short stories which eventually intertwine. One describes a teacher who has denounced his homeland of Cairo, Egypt, abandons Eastern culture all together, yet struggles with letting his daughter live as an American woman and move out of her parent's house to live with her boyfriend.

Another addresses a college student professing his problems with the Egyptian government after accepting a scholarship from them. He is forced to keep quiet by those above him. There are many more characters that are introduced but all of who are connected and in some way cross paths as the story unfolds.

Given the present time in which the novel was written, it provides a well-noticed glimpse into Muslim men and women living in a post-9/11 society. It is very telling of all aspects of thought on the subject, from the Anti-American rhetoric in which one student believes but questions, to the Anti-Muslim sentiment of

a college professor using religion as a whole to place blame for a horribly unfortunate event.

With many characters introduced and many different situations, as a reader, it may seem a little complicated. But the insights are made so well into each character and from plot to plot that even if the beginning of the book was to go unread and it was instead finished from the middle six months later, the characters might not be recognizable at first but the situations will be instantly.

As a native to Cairo and attending school for the unlikely profession of a dentist in Egypt and Chicago, it is apparent that Al Aswany most likely witnessed and lived through most of the situations that are presented in the novel and drew from some of those experiences to gain inspiration. Also in offering some history at points in the novel of Chicago and Cairo, it gave some interesting facts to use at this reader's disposal at the next family gathering.

All in all *Chicago* was a definite page-turner, a novel that will keep the readers attention throughout. Al Aswany has had one other novel published prior to *Chicago*, entitled *The Yacoubian Building*, which was recently made into a movie in Cairo, and on the night of its premiere, Al Aswany was not allowed in the building for his conflicting political views with leaders in Cairo. He also has a collection of short stories entitled *Friendly Fire*, which will be published in English in 2009.



This book will 'Feed' your mind

Jez Leyman
Staff Writer

The future looks pretty good-looking cars, colonies on the moon, more technology—everything we've been promised. But things are never as they seem. Titus is a college student in this time, spending his spring break on the Moon with some of his friends. There he meets a great girl named Violet at a club.

Unfortunately a crazy activist chose the same club for his demonstration and Titus, Violet and everyone else receives a virus from him. This virus doesn't just crash their home computer—it affects the people themselves. The Feed is a device implanted into everyone in this future, keeping them constantly connected to the digital world they live in for most of their lives.

The virus can be fixed—for most of them—and after some time in a hospital without a feed connection, the teens are released without a problem, except for Violet. Now Titus has to deal with Violet's condition, and the way she sees the world. To Titus the future is exactly as it should be, to Violet, it's a dystopia. It gives

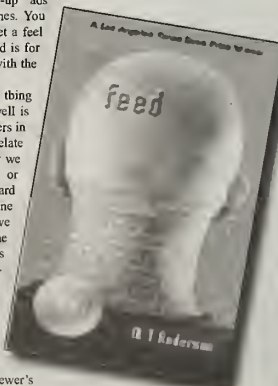
us a chance to wonder if maybe we can move so far ahead and we lose sight of who we are—or do we continue becoming more of what we already are?

Feed by MT Anderson is written wonderfully, the best part being the way the Feed is shown through the text. At points in the narration the Feed breaks in and sends you pop-up ads and news headlines. You really begin to get a feel for how the world is for someone living with the Feed.

Another thing Anderson does well is represent characters in a way that we relate to them. Whether we side with Titus or Violet, it is not hard to find someone in this book we understand. The speech and actions of the teens—especially Titus and his other friends—are very realistic. The most interesting part about this book, in this reviewer's

opinion, is the moral issues brought up about technology and change for the sake of change.

It can be a hard-hitting book that challenges the mind or it can be a book that touches the heart. Either way, it will have an impact on the reader. Part teenage love story, part biting satire, this book is a great read for everyone.



UPCOMING RELEASES

'Just After Sunset' by Stephen King

Just After Sunset is a collection of short stories by Stephen King. Many of the stories have previously been published in magazines like The New Yorker, Playboy and Esquire.



'The Hour I First Believed' by Wally Lamb

The Hour I First Believed is Wally Lamb's third novel, released after a 10-year hiatus from fiction of family history and the school shooting in Columbine to face issues of faith, psychology and what it takes to survive everyday life.



'Cross Country' by James Patterson

Cross Country is the fourteenth book in James Patterson's Alex Cross series. The book says Alex Cross encounters "the worst murder scene he's ever seen."



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CINEMA
SCENE

RocknRolla

Reviewed by Jeff Kopp

Guy Ritchie makes his return to the British-gangster movie genre in his best work since *Lock Stock, Two Smoking Barrels* and *Snotch* with *RocknRolla*. Following the two flops *Sweet Away* and *Revolver*, Ritchie brings *RocknRolla* back to the roots that made him a star.

The plot is expectantly complex as any other Ritchie film, and is full of twists and turns. The movie starts with the "old school" mobster Lenny Cole (Tom Wilkinson) entering a property deal with the "new school" billionaire Uri (Karl Roden). While at the same time "The Wild Bunch", a London crew composed of One Two (Gerald Butler), Mumbles (Idris Elba) and Handsome Bob (Tom Hardy) are offered a business proposition by Uri's seductive accountant that is too good to refuse. Add Johnny Quid (Toby Kebbell), a junkie "rocknrolla" who has connections to all the characters involved, and hilarity ensues.

The plot revolves around Uri's lucky painting that is stolen while in Cole's possession. Although the

plot is complex, all questions are answered by the middle to the end of the film.

Even though the movie is called *RocknRolla*, the leading man is not Johnny Quid, but rather Gerald Butler's Character, One Two and his gang. Butler once again proves himself with his role and delivers a great performance. "The Wild Bunch" gang provides many laughs and is the real fuel of this film.

Ritchie's style of dark comedy with violence, bad language, and fast camera shines through and is executed perfectly with energy and excitement. Often, the story is progressed through the dialogue, which is smart and hilarious, rather than the action, which is equally as hilarious.

RocknRolla is a dark comedy thriller that keeps the audience's attention with intelligent comedy. While *RocknRolla* is no *Lock Stock or Snotch*, Ritchie is definitely back on his game. The end of the movie hints at a sequel and rumor has it that a trilogy is planned. Ritchie could have gone on his hands with this story.

Role Models

Reviewed by Mark Noel

As I began to watch *Role Models*, directed by David Wain, I had a moment of cognitive dissonance when I was trying to wrap my mind around the fact that this was a comedy about kids, involving kids and starring kids. I had this moment because this movie was definitely not made for kids.

Starring Seann William Scott (*American Pie*) and Paul Rudd (*40 Year Old Virgin*, *Knocked Up*), *Role Models* is about a couple of guys who go to schools and "keep kids off drugs" by persuading them to buy their company's energy drinks. After Rudd has a rough day and his girlfriend dumps him, he makes a couple of not so great, but hilarious, decisions that land him and Scott in trouble with the law. To avoid jail, they are forced into community service. To add a note of irony, Rudd's ex-girlfriend is also his lawyer. They have to log 150 hours by volunteering with an agency that helps kids by giving them a sort of mentor. The agency is run

by a woman with an obvious past, Jane Lynch. (*40 Year Old Virgin*), that frequently mentions just how bad she used to be before taking care of the kids.

There are plenty of laughs along the way, though I almost felt bad because many of them involved a 10-year-old boy dropping "F" bombs and talking about getting laid. Christopher Mintz-Plasse, or as many know him as the great McLovin in *Superbad*, almost steals the whole show with the exploration of his hilarious inner nerd. The cast performed amiably. There was even a decent love story enough to make it an acceptable date movie. It is a high concept comedy that works on every level it attempts.

It's cute, raunchy, funny, sweet and plain entertaining. I didn't fall out of my seat laughing, but I definitely had a smile on my face nearly throughout the entire movie. This movie is definitely worth checking out but trust me, do not bring the kids.

Bond fans will find disappointing 'Solace' in latest 007 flick

Matt Sheehan

Staff Writer

When Daniel Craig was first announced to take over the 007 reins as the latest James Bond in 2006's *Casino Royale*, fanatics of the British secret agent went up in arms, adamantly protesting the choice. The box office returns and strong critical overtures spoke otherwise.

When Marc Forster was announced to direct the 22nd Bond film, *Quantum of Solace*, and first direct sequel in the series) the skepticism the hardcore fans held against Craig had transferred to me against Forster. I am a Craig fan, loving the stylized look and feel of *Layer Cake*, the 2004 film that earned him the Bond role. But Forster? He did *Monster's Ball* and *Finding Neverland*. *Solace* suffers for it.

Bond (Craig) is still seething over his one love, Vesper Lynd, betraying him and giving her life up. He's gathered up the man who held her captive, wanting to learn the identity of who he works for, with the motherly gaze of M (Judi Dench) watching his every move.

The investigation leads to a secret organization called Quantum, especially member Dominic Greene (Mathieu Amalric). Greene poses as an environmentalist who actually helps dispose of governments and setup new dictatorships. With a particular one in Bolivia, the takeover brings Camille Montes (Olga Kurylenko) into the fold, a partner to Greene.

Bond's continued search and deadly methods of "interrogation" earn him the disdain of M and plenty of the British government. Cut off, Bond goes rogue, attracting the attention of the Americans, including his CIA pal from *Royale*, Felix Leiter (Jeffrey Wright).

Apparently Greene is seeking more than just credit for the military takeover; he wants a huge chunk of the desert, believed to be home to a vast amount of oil. Bond discovers much more and thinks stopping Greene will lead him to Vesper's killers.

My reaction to *Solace* is much like someone watching *The Godfather, Part III* immediately after *Part II*: while decent on its own, the film pales in comparison to its far superior predecessor.

What made *Casino Royale* so great and perfect was its revolutionary attitude to the character of James Bond. While Sean Connery is the pitch-perfect, infamous man of the tuxedo and martini, he was still a fraction of what author Ian Fleming created in his original 007 novels and short stories. Craig brought the icy, brash and blunt force that Fleming intended in *Royale*; in *Solace*, he's nothing more than an action tool. And Forster does not know action.

He knows character development but even that is lacking here as well. Forster tries desperately to combine the cinematography of the band-to-hand combat action scenes of the Bourne films with an auteur sense of style. What it ends up being is a mashed mix montage of seconds-worth of shots. Some action scenes—especially the high-wire, scaffolding fight—can be a bit thrilling but overbearing in scope.

And Bond never really has been an action kind of guy. He dispenses with people's lives, sure, but doesn't destroy buildings and cars and rock quarries and desert hotels. At least not everything. Craig still is good and is



Photo courtesy: movieweb.com

the best Bond since Connery.

The villain and Bond girl are also anti-climatic. They don't shake you or stir you. Amalric and Kurylenko are interesting choices, given they're lack of high-screen experience (Amalric was in last year's critically-acclaimed independent film *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* while Kurylenko has only been recently introduced to American audiences in the video game films *Hitman* and *Max Payne*).

While Amalric has huggy eyes and a cool, steely gaze that comes required by Bond villains, Kurylenko has nothing exceptional to bring to the plate. Just fair looks and some rough edges (she can kick butt like the best of them).

Quantum of Solace is a fair film that suffers from a mistaken choice in the director who knows nothing about blow-'em-up filmmaking and everything about taking a rejuvenated film franchise down a few notches.

And I won't even get started on the silly title.

My rating: 2-and-a-half stars out far four



Josh Green
Staff Writer

The Joliet Junior College women's volleyball team finished up their 2008 season on Nov. 7 with a loss to Harper in the first round of the Region IV playoffs.

Although the season did not finish as expected, head coach Jennifer Peterson thinks her team accomplished a lot more on and off the volleyball court.

"Though our record does not indicate it, the girls made major strides since we first met in January. I truly believe that when they work their hardest and truly focus they can beat anyone in the country. For all of us, this season was a year of learning. Next year, with one season under their belt, I predict many more wins and they will contend for the number one position in the conference. Though my sister and I will not be coaching them, we will be cheering them on and thinking of them often," wrote Coach Peterson in a statement last week.

This was Coach Peterson's first year as the head women's volleyball coach for JJC. Peterson was a graduate of Lockport High School; she currently teaches at Lincoln-Way Central High School and is a fitness instructor here at JJC. The new head women's volleyball coach for the 2009 season has yet to be announced.

The Wolves racked up certain wins over the course of this year that displayed the hard work they all poured into the team. JJC earned their first two wins of the season back to back, first on Sept. 9, defeating South Suburban College by a score of 25-17, 25-20, 25-18. The second win in a row came on Sept. 11 over Waubesa Community College by a score of 25-13, 25-10, and 25-22. Mary Sesol had 11 kills and nine digs in this contest. Kirsten Rueck had nine kills, nine digs, and eight aces; while Kaitlin Soto added 23 assists in the game.

JJC earned their first two N4C conference wins in stunning fashion. They defeated the College of DuPage with a score of 18-25, 25-22, and 25-22 on Sept. 18. Shortly following that victory, the Wolves also took a win over Triton College by a score of 25-11, 25-11, and 25-7 on Sept. 23.

The last series of games to mention comes from the St. Ambrose University Invite on Sept. 27, where the Lady Wolves took 3 of 4 games played in the tournament. Kaitlin Soto then received the NCAA Division III Player of the Week honors on Oct. 1st, for her performance during the week of Sept. 22-27.

On Nov. 4 the Wolves had a play-in game against Triton for the right to play in the Region IV tournament. JJC played well and dominated in just three games against the Trojans.

However, Harper seemed to have their way with JJC in the first round of the tournament and that's where their season came to an end.

JJC finished the season with a 10-28 record.

From left to right Haley DeCory, Kaitlin Soto, and Mary Sesol.

Photo by Mike DeVore

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MEN'S
SOCCER

THE JJC MEN'S SOCCER TEAM FINISHED THE SEASON WITH AN OVERALL RECORD OF 10-7-1. THE WOLVES ADVANCED TO REGION IV TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP GAME WHEN THEY DEFEATED HARPER COLLEGE BY A SCORE OF 2-1. THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME WAS A DISAPPOINTMENT THOUGH AS TRITON COLLEGE DEFEATED JJC 1-0. Bryce Anderson and Arturo Rios both led the Wolves in scoring and ended up with 12 goals apiece for the season. Matt Philbin also added 10 goals and three assists for the year.

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BY JAKE WIDOWSKI

WOMEN'S
BASKETBALL

THE LADY WOLVES BASKETBALL TEAM IS RANKED NO. 10 IN THE PRESEASON NJCAA POLLS, AND LOOKED IMPRESSIVE IN THEIR FIRST GAME OF THE SEASON ON NOV. 6. JJC DEFEATED PRAIRIE STATE COLLEGE BY A SCORE OF 79-45. UNDER FIRST YEAR HEAD COACH SHAUN SANDERSON, TIANA NOBLES SCORED 19 POINTS WHICH LED THE TEAM IN SCORING FOR THE GAME. MARTHA BENJAMIN ADDED 18 POINTS AND 8 REBOUNDS AND SHAKYRA ROBINSON ADDED 13 POINTS FOR THE LADY WOLVES. JJC WILL PLAY THEIR FIRST HOME GAME OF THE SEASON ON SATURDAY, NOV. 22 AGAINST MILWAUKEE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE. GAME-TIME IS SCHEDULED FOR 1 P.M.

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SPORTS EDITOR

WOMEN'S
SOCCER

THE JJC WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM ALSO FINISHED THEIR SEASON RECENTLY WHEN THEY LOST IN THE REGION IV CHAMPIONSHIP GAME TO COLLEGE OF DUPAGE. THE LADY WOLVES HAD AN IMPRESSIVE 4-0 VICTORY IN THE SEMIFINALS OF THE REGIONAL TOURNAMENT OVER TRITON, BUT COULDN'T FINISH THE JOB IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP AND ENDED THEIR SEASON WITH A 10-7-1 RECORD. APRIL KUTCHINSKI DOMINATED THE SEASON SCORING FOR THE WOLVES AND ENDED UP WITH 14 GOALS. KIRA THOMPSON FINISHED SECOND IN SCORING FOR JJC WITH 6 GOALS AND SHE ALSO ADDED 4 ASSISTS.

MALE ATHLETE OF THE

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE

BY JAKE WIDLOWSKI



Sophomore Terry Whisby has already had a big impact on the JJC men's basketball team so far this season. In the first game of the year against Daley College, Whisby led the team in scoring with 13 points, all of which came in the second half. In the second game against Truman College, Whisby put up another 16 points and also added nine rebounds. JJC won both games to start the season at 2-0. In addition to being an excellent basketball player, Whisby was a starting wide receiver on the football team this past season as well. His football numbers are equally impressive. He had 256 yards receiving and led the team with four touchdown receptions.



Aurora Central Catholic graduate Marsha Benjamin enters her second year on the JJC women's basketball team. A season ago, Benjamin averaged a double-double with 14 points and 11 rebounds a game. Already this season it is evident that Benjamin is going to play a large role on this year's team also. In the opening game of the season against Prairie State College, Benjamin scored 18 points and grabbed eight rebounds. The Lady Wolves dominated the game and won 79-45. Benjamin is the centerpiece of the JJC low post attack.

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Wolves season comes to an end

Jacob Boersma
Staff Writer

While the college football season continues into the bowl games, unfortunately the Joliet Junior College football team will not be there.

After a 28-7 loss to 7th ranked Harper College in the first round of the playoffs, JJC's season is over. Harper went on to win the playoffs for the conference. The game was played well by both sides as the halftime score was 7-7. However, a few takeaways and great field position, Harper would eventually pull away for the win. While this may be the end of a tough season, there are bright spots for the team and the season.

At the beginning of the season, the Wolves had high expectations coming off of a Graphic Edge Bowl win in 2007. This may

have had the players feeling confident and maybe a little cocky as the team lost the first game of the season to Harper 45-14. This ended up being a reality check for the Wolves and Coach Richardson made a point of it.

Practice is the most important thing to a team and Coach Richardson said, "Even when we lost a game, we still grew. We grew to understand how important practice was and it really showed going into the final

stretch of the season."

The Wolves got off to a rocky start but turned it around winning three of their last five games in the regular season.

Anthony Echols finished in the top 10 in the nation in tackles with 91 as a linebacker, which includes 60 solo tackles and 31 assists. Defensive tackle Trey Jackson finished

with 44 tackles and a team leading seven sacks. Running back Tim Huguley finished with 414 yards on 92 attempts and three touchdowns. Quarterback Chris Walley finished with 1337 yards and 10 touchdowns passing with Carlos Johnson finishing as the team leader in receptions with 24, receiving yards with 531 and two touchdowns.

The Wolves have nine players that made the All-Conference team. 3 players made 1st team All-Conference: linebacker Anthony Echols, safety Jordan DeGaul and wide receiver Carlos Johnson.

6 players made the 2nd team All-Conference: offensive linemen Matt Steele and Joe Ephrem, defensive linemen P.J. South and Trey Jackson, tight end Kyle Weber and kicker Justin Zeeb. All-Americans have not been an-

nounced yet.

While this season sadly comes to a close, Richardson and the Wolves have high hopes for next season. All the Wolves can do is prepare for next year. They finished with a 4-6 record.



Wolves football players do drills before their game against NIACC.

Photo by Mike DeNiro



The JJC players take the field in a game this season against NIACC.

Photo by Mike DeNiro



Backup quarterback Sammut Lamar drops back to pass in a game against NIACC this season.

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Wolves off to fast start

Jake Widlowski
Sports Editor

The JJC Men's Basketball team entered the 2008-2009 season with high expectations and after only two games, they haven't disappointed. JJC currently has a 4-0 record and

have looked impressive so far this season.

The Wolves played their opening game of the season at home on Nov. 11, and defeated Daley Col-

lege by a score of 71-63. With the game tied 26-26 at halftime, the Wolves began to pull away in the second half when they went on a 15-3 run. Sophomore pre-season all-American Tera Whisby was influential in the victory when he scored all of his team high 13 points in the second half alone. Charles Watson, a freshman from Tennessee, also added 12 points and 7 rebounds in the win.

Just three days later, JJC traveled to the north side of Chicago to face Truman College. The Wolves defeated Truman by nearly 40 points last season, but this year's matchup was a little closer.

Guard LeAaron Pierce put on a stellar show shooting the ball, going 3-5 from three-point range, and finished the game with 11 points. Ivan Smith from Romeville dominated the low post adding 8 points with 10 rebounds. Once again Whisby helped the Wolves by scoring 16 points and also had 6 rebounds. The Wolves won by a score of 71-59.

Despite the two victories, head coach Joe Kuhn realizes the Wolves are just starting and have a long road ahead of them before the end of the season.

"We have a long way to go. We have many new players and it takes time adjusting to each other, especially offensively," said Kuhn.

Probably the biggest surprise for JJC so far this year has been the play of freshman guard, Brandon Redmond from Lockport High School. In the first game against Daley

College Redmond scored 11 points. In the game against Truman, however, he led the Wolves with 19 points including 12 points in the second half. Redmond leads the Wolves in scoring for the season also, averaging 15 points per game.

The Wolves traveled to Michigan to defend their title as Madison Tech tournament champions this past weekend. For the third time in four seasons, the JJC Wolves won the Madison Area Tech (Wis.) Tournament championship.

The Wolves remained unbeaten Saturday, defeating the host Wolfpack 79-63 in the championship game.

Stepping up big time for JJC (4-0) was Pierce, who finished with 22 points.

JJC plays their second home game of the season on Nov. 22 against Milwaukee Area Technical College. Game-time is scheduled for 3 p.m.



JJC defenders deny on easy basket against Daley College.

Photo by Mike Dillman

Photo by Mike Dillman



JJC's 6'7" center Ivan Smith tips down a rebound in the season opening win against Daley College.

Photo by Mike Dillman

WOLVES BASKETBALL 2008

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 21
ANCILLA COLLEGE
AWAY
6:30 PM EST

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22
MILWAUKEE AREA TECH. COLLEGE
HOME
3:00 PM

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 25
COLLEGE OF LAKE COUNTY
HOME
7:00 PM

TUESDAY DECEMBER 2
MORRIS VALLEY CC
HOME
7:00 PM

THURSDAY DECEMBER 4
MORTON COLLEGE
HOME
7:00 PM

THURSDAY DECEMBER 11
OLIVET NAZARENE UNIV. JV
HOME
7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 17
DALEY COLLEGE
AWAY
7:00 PM

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 20
MADISON AREA TECH. COLLEGE
HOME
3:00 PM



JJC celebrates World Aids Day

Rob Longton
 Staff Writer

Dec. 1, 2008, marked the 20th anniversary of World AIDS Day. On this day, people around the globe come together and work in unison to promote AIDS awareness, and to bring attention to the global AIDS pandemic.

World Aids Day was officially established in 1988.

It's estimated that approximately 33 million people worldwide are living with HIV.

On Dec. 1 through 3, JJC staff, student GLOW (gay lesbian or whatever) members, and the Will County Health Department participated in the World AIDS Day event by giving out red ribbons and raising money for AIDS awareness.

The Will County Health Dept. offered HIV testing and handed out AIDS awareness ribbons and GLOW members raised money by selling soda, buttons and organizing a bake sale.

GLOW gave out AIDS day T-shirts and pamphlets promoting safer sex practices and how to help people cope with HIV or AIDS.

The pamphlets listed organizations available to help Illinois residents who are living with HIV/AIDS.

Organizations such as, Illinois AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), which supplies most medicines prescribed for HIV and HIV-related complications.



Members of GLOW help to bring awareness to World AIDS Day on the main campus bridge.



Members of the Will County Health Department get students involved with World AIDS Day.

The T-shirts given out displayed a red ribbon and the shirts read "no day but today, action makes a difference, World AIDS Day Dec. 1."

On day three of the event, GLOW played the movie *Gia* on the center bridge. The movie is about a young female model named *Gia* (played by Angelina

Jolie) who contracts HIV and later dies at the age of 26 due to complications with AIDS.

When all the participants of the World AIDS event at JJC were asked if they felt a sense of accomplishment in participating, the answer was a staunch yes.

GLOW advisor Diannah Teilbur said she considers the World AIDS event to be essential because "it helps bring light to the AIDS situation, it doesn't just affect us, it's every country."

Teilbur says she thinks the best way to prevent the spread of AIDS throughout the world is by, "informing people, and educating people on the AIDS epidemic."

When Teilbur was asked why she agreed to lead the event, she simply replied, "to educate the students."

JJC student and GLOW member Britney Stevens said

she agreed to participate because she really likes "to contribute to GLOW and to help with world issues."

Stevens was one of two other GLOW members, Joe Perez, and Jackie Riley were the others, who gave out AIDS awareness information, sold buttons and set up the bake sale.

One of the representatives from the Will County Health Dept. said she agreed to come to JJC, "to provide another opportunity for awareness of World AIDS Days, and to promote the HIV testing."

The Will County Health Dept. holds HIV testing at JJC on the first and third Mondays of each month.

The room in which the HIV testing is held varies from month to month. This month of December, testing is being done in J-402.

News

JJC 'gives' back to the community for the holidays

Shelley Holmgren
 Production Manager

"The Giving Tree," written by Shel Silverstein, is the story of a little boy who befriends a tree in his youth. Nevertheless, as most know the story, throughout his friendship with the tree, the boy continually takes from the tree until there is nothing more but a stump. Now with JJC's own Community Giving Tree, the campus continues this story, except this time, the young boy gives back.

According to Patricia Shue, an advisor of Phi Theta Kappa, this community event originally began 15 years with the SPRITE committee, then known as Team Building committee, as the sponsors. Heene Sedlacek of the social and behavioral science department was the original organizer of the event. However, as the years progressed, interest in sponsoring the event diminished until, Shue said, "JJC President, JD Ross, gave me the green light to continue the tradition."

The Community Giving Tree, located near the theater at the main campus, is focused on aiding shelters and helping agencies for this holiday season. These local charities include The Blessing Bench food pantry, Lamb's Fold Women's Center, Guardian Angel as well as Daybreak and Morning Star Mission. This is how it works; located on the tree are 'ornaments' which ask for specific items that will benefit families in the Joliet Area. From there, the gift unwrapped to the tree by Dec. 17 to be delivered the following day. Some items that the tree includes are: clothes, baby products, gently used toys, outdoor wear and perishable food.

See Tree Page 4

Sappy holidays to you!

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The Blazer is a student-run publication. Opinions expressed in the Blazer do not necessarily reflect the views of the faculty or of the administration of Joliet Junior College.

For a college newspaper, writing about the holiday season is a tough proposition.

You, the reader, have probably grown tired of hearing about the assortment of social events on campus, the forthcoming final exams, the messy lake or another imitation American Idol event on the bridge.

It's Christmas, and people want to hear about all the nice things that are associated with Christmas.

However, writing some sappy piece about the importance of creating happy family memories has its hazards, because most of you will stop reading or won't read this until after Christmas, which usually ends the moment the gift wrap is torn and laying on the floor or you break your new toy before the afternoon is over (come on, we know some of you still ask for those Transformers).

However, for the sake of balance, some of you do still get those warm and fuzzy feelings when a story reminds you of a doll you once had or a bicycle you

woke up to find on that snowy morning years back.

We could include some kind of biblical message.

However, considering that not everyone celebrates Christmas, some celebrate Hanukkah or Kwanzaa; we'll steer clear of the religious aspect and keep everything politically correct.

We could discuss the age where most children experience their first doubts of there ever being a real Santa Claus (sorry if we ruined that for any of you).

We could discuss how it's "that time of the year" where everyone gets together to share their joy

EDITORIAL

and happiness and hatred for those distant family members who aren't in the room.

That time of year where eaters are ignored, where you're forced to shovel snow and when the adults put too much nog in the egg nog.

Yes,

Christmas: when Jesus and Santa bare-knuckle box to see who can win our hearts and minds. And Santa has been on a winning streak for years.

Yes, dear readers,

now that Thanksgiving turkey has been dismantled and the shopping season has already led to a trampling death at a Wal-Mart in Long Island, NY on Black Friday, we can finally cuddle up in warm

Yes, Christmas: when Jesus and Santa bare-knuckle box to see who can win our hearts and minds. And Santa has been on a winning streak for years.

Thanksgiving turkey has been dismantled and the shopping season has already led to a trampling death at a Wal-Mart in Long Island, NY on Black Friday, we can finally cuddle up in warm

The Pop Culture Commentary

with Shelley Holmgren

Just another manic Friday...

Black Friday, to me, is a national holiday which should be celebrated with spending way too much money, waiting in long lines and being prepared to throw some elbows, if need be. Although this day is voracious in its tendencies, it makes up for the mayhem with the incredible deals you shall receive if you are willing to play the game.

Now, I am not saying that I am one of those crazy people who will wait in front of Best Buy for 2 days in order to get a flat panel television for what, a whole \$200 cheaper.

Seriously, people, I empathize that we are in an 'economic recession,' but what I want to know is, if you are so stifled for cash, why in the world are you buying a big screen television set in the first place? Personally, I am quite comfortable with my 10-year-old 22" inch television set.

Although to me, Black Friday is an excitement equivalent to a child in candy land, it can become deadly. I am of course referring to the tragic event at the Valley Stream Wal-Mart that Friday morning.

According to Newsday, seasonal Wal-Mart employee Jiminy Damour of Jamaica, Queens, was trampled to death by the early morning shoppers fleeing in the store. The 2,000 plus errand not only trampled this 34-year-old

man to death, but when the store announced that they needed to close the location because of the incident, the people continued to shop. SERIOUSLY. What I want to say is that you have to have some seriously perverse priorities when a man's life comes second to scoring Rock Band 2 for your children.

Another incident occurred in Palm Desert, California where two men were shot to death at

I want to shame those who were on the road driving like maniacs. You should seriously review your traffic signals, because you have obviously forgotten them, or you must really love friendly camaraderie with your local law enforcement.

Although mass amounts of shoppers crowded malls to perform their civic duty on Black Friday, it wasn't enough to benefit the economy. According to a tally of 37 major retail chains conducted by the International Council of Shopping Centers, sales at stores fell 2.7% in

What I want to say is that you have to have some seriously perverse priorities when a man's life comes second to scoring Rock Band 2 for your children.

the Toys"R"Us. According to the Associated Press, the shots were fired at 11:30 a.m. in the crowded toy store; however, no suspects were apprehended on the scene. The article also notes that the shootings were not related to the shopping frenzy.

So, if it wasn't related to retail mayhem, what could these deaths be attributed to? My guess — that creep graffiti Jeffrey that greets you at the door. Seriously, you have no idea who is in that costume, and I have no intention of finding out, thank you very much.

None the less, I want to applaud those of you who weren't harboring homicidal tendencies that day and did your duty to boost our fledgling economy — although,

November over last year. Only bargain megalomaniac Wal-Mart seemed most unaffected by the drop. It was the worst month for retailers since at least 1969, when the index began.

I found this a little disheartening. The whole time I was getting myself into greater debt with the slide of my credit card, I was convincing myself that I was being an American. I just didn't realize that by falling into more debt how much of a true American was I being.

In the aftermath of this most dreaded by the male population, I can only count down the days until next year's shopping mayhem and screen my calls for Brian at Capital One. I seriously hope he doesn't read this.

BLACK FRIDAY:

A PHOTO EDITORIAL
Photos by Shelley Holmgren



Shoppers showed up in massive numbers at Westfield Shopping Center in Aurora, Illinois. One only hopes that they left their children at home. It's a jungle out there.



Voracious customers in Forever 21 flock to the registers to make their barely discounted purchases. If you spend \$100, what do you get? A recyclable tote bag. Wow, where do I slide my card?

Gardening Corner

with Scott Getz

Email questions or comments to Sgetz03@jic.edu

Hopefully as you were walking in and out of the college last week you noticed some grass on concrete that had not been there the week before. You then asked what were those signs doing on this awkwardly planted grass and who would even plant this here?

The footprints were in fact put in front of the entrances by the Student Horticulture Association with the goal to increase awareness of environmental issues at hand today (some may have thought the goal was to be an ash tray but they would be wrong).

I am president of this club and was put on to this idea by a company in New York called *Greener By Design*.

I was at a Green Industry conference in Kentucky sometime in October where the owner of this company spoke. His speech really lit a fire under me to start thinking green. He pointed out something funny to the audience of a hundred or so, my group of four were the only students he asked the question, "Why is it that General Electric is leading the way in this 'Green Movement' and we are not, as we do call ourselves the 'Green Industry'?"

He was spitting on us all the way to the back row because he was so electrified by this topic. After I wiped the spit and the contemplated look in my eyes off, I went to speak with him.

I told him my concern for the lack of environment enthusiasm not just in my horticulture classes, but in my school. I told him how we still use Styrofoam cups (you will soon see a petition to ban these from school) and how my curriculum lacks teaching in the area.

That is where the sod footprints came into play. Also, did everyone know there is a sustainability committee here on campus that discusses the issues of how the college is to become more sustainable or self sufficient? Talk to Biology professor Andy Neill for more information.

Here are some facts that will strike anyone with a conscience reading this column (if anyone reads this column): One million acres (the equivalent of Vermont) of forest and grassland turn into desert every year in China.

By the time you finish reading this column, 200 football fields of the Amazon Rainforest will be destroyed by human activity. In the 2 million years humans

have been on earth, we have been responsible for the destruction of fifty percent of the original forests. One may say that two million years is a long time-not...

If we translate the 32 billion years that earth has been in creation to the ticking clock on the wall you use to time yourself to eat shrimp, then we have been on earth a total of only two minutes.

Okay- after finding out all these facts I asked myself, what can I do? I look at it this way, like the famous quote goes but with a little twist "Ask not what earth can do for you, but, what you can do for earth." Sound familiar?

This is where we as a "Green Industry" come into play. We hold the key to major transformation of land, whether you are the residential gardener or the landscape architect designing golf courses and botanical gardens.

Some rules of thumb to keep in mind in residential garden: reuse, reuse, reuse. Rainwater catch basins or even better, plumbing your house to use "grey water," are great ways to reuse water and ease strain on our

taxed water systems. Use plant material native to area. The Midwest prairies are inspiration to gardeners around the world. You can pick up a native plants book on Amazon.com or at Chicago Botanic Garden to see what variety there is.

Native plants are used to extreme winters and summers we have and require little to no maintenance (there are numerous reasons that would take up this whole column so do a little research). Brick, sand and stone earth can easily be relocated to a suitable location rather than being disposed.

Junkyards provide a boundless set of opportunities to create a unique landscape. You can incorporate a compost area into your yard which would allow you to reduce waste and fertilization. Also you can amend your soil with organic material and reduce fertilizing which is a major contributor to water pollution of lakes and streams (also organic materials solve the problem while fertilizers mask it).

For further research into green landscaping and in the "Green Industry," Google: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, Greenscapes, and Watersense.

NO LOVE FOR THE BLAZER

Green editorial draws criticism

This letter is in response to the editorial entitled, "No love for the Green Party," which was published on November 19, 2008.

As a publication of a unit of government, supported by taxpayers, the *Blazer* has an obligation to maintain an objective set of candidate inclusion criteria, rather than acting in a grossly bipartisan manner. Bipartisanship is a type of partisanship!

The *Blazer* uses the term "major political party" but fails to define that term. It is an arbitrary standard, evoked by those with a preexisting bias in favor of the Democratic and Republican Parties.

In Illinois, there are, however, legal definitions for "established political party" and "new political party." These are objective legal standards, democratically put into place by the people of Illinois, via their elected representatives, which determine the viability of political parties and their candidates.

The *Blazer* wrote, "We... were focusing on the candidates that had a shot to win!" It should occur to the *Blazer* that

a major reason that many candidates may not have "a shot to win" is that some publications, such as the *Blazer*, refuse to fairly and objectively include all qualified candidates in the same legal category, choosing instead to reinforce the false idea that people have fewer choices than they actually do.

Is the role of the *Blazer* to objectively inform or to pick and play favorites?

The *Blazer* also wrote, "The debates were between Obama and McCain..." That's hardly surprising, as the so-called Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD) is a private corporation, operating in a bipartisan manner, essentially controlled by the Democratic and Republican parties, forming secret debate contracts and tightly controlling who is allowed to participate. The League of Women Voters once called it, "...a fraud on the American voter." Please visit the opendebates.org website for more information.

- Tim W. Tacker

Tim W. Tacker, Chairperson
Will County Green Central Committee

LETTER POLICY

The *Blazer* welcomes and encourages participation by our readers. Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters to verify authenticity. Letters should be 300 words or fewer. We reserve the right to edit for space and content. You may send your letter through inter-office mail, postal mail, email at blazermail@jic.edu, or by dropping them off at the *Blazer* office in F-1009.

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JJC hosts another successful Epicurean Festival



Photo by Kelsie Lofdash

Local food lovers gather around the cafeteria on Nov. 21 for the 8th annual JJC Epicurean Festival. Culinary students and faculty catered and organized the event.

Kelsie Lofdash
Staff Writer

Presenting their 8th Annual Epicurean Festival of Food and Wine, the Joliet Junior College Culinary Arts Hospitality Management Department invited the public to an evening of exquisite tastings.

On Nov. 21 at JJC from 7-10 p.m., the cafeteria was revamped into a flamboyant dining area. Decorated with tables draped in white and arranged with ethnic foods and various types of wine, the event was eye catching.

With tables lined all around the cafeteria, everyone who attended had the chance to walk around and taste the different types of cultured foods made by the Culinary Arts students and faculty. They were able to reminisce and get a bite of something

unique compared to their everyday types of foods.

In order to be apart of this delightful event, each individual had to purchase a ticket at \$60. With each ticket purchased, money was raised for the Culinary Arts Program.

Money was also raised by the individuals who helped run this event by hosting a silent and live auction. The silent auction offered numerous items such as an iPod Nano, a Wii, gift certificates, housing decorations and a

award winning chef/instructor Timothy Bucchi. These two chefs were auctioned off to prepare an eight course contemporary tasting of cuisine and pastry for six, in ones own home.

The second dinner was 'Gold

"It was a great event because it gave me the opportunity as a student of the Culinary Arts Program to show off what I learned over this past semester."

David Cyplik, Culinary Arts Student

grant for student-scholarships.

"Having our annual Epicurean Festival has been a great way to raise money for culinary arts scholarships because we get so many people to come like our family and friends," said Culinary Arts student David Cyplik.

few more assorted items.

To obtain an item from the silent auction, anyone interested had to make a bid and continue until the highest bid was reached. The live auction offered chefs to be auctioned off for a night of cooking.

Fashioned Cook Out' with chef Keith Vonhoff and chef Chlebana. Preparing an outdoor cook-out for 20, these two chefs were auctioned off to cook a selection of barbecued and smoked items, various salads, fresh breads, corn boil and a variety of desserts.

The third dinner was 'Gold Medal Dinner' with the coaches of JJC's Gold Medal winning Junior Hot Foods Team, chef Kyle Richardson and chef Bucchi. These chefs and their team were auctioned off to prepare a private dinner for the winning individual and eight other guests.

With weeks of preparation, the Culinary Arts students and faculty worked hard to introduce their diverse foods. Each culinary arts class had to decide which kind of ethnic foods to prepare such as Greek, Italian, Russian, French and several others.

Other types of culinary arts classes had to decide which types of sculptures they were going to create and present. Also, culinary arts students studying in pastries had to decide which desserts they were going to bake and show off.

Not only did the students and faculty work hard to present their foods, they also worked hard setting up everything for this event and making it, as much as possible, flawless. They worked hard to show off their amazing talents and to make a stupendous impression on anyone who attended.

"It was a great event because it gave me the opportunity as a student of the Culinary Arts Program to show off what I learned over this past semester," said Cyplik.

This event not only allowed the public to enjoy luscious types of foods, but gave the Culinary Arts students the opportunity to present and flaunt their skills. Giving the students that type of opportunity was meaningful and encouraging because it allowed the students to pursue their talent and major.

The Culinary Arts students and faculty were astonished with the remarkable turnout of their annual event and grateful for all the individuals who attended.

Tree, From Page 1

Additionally, for the second year, as apart of this event, JJC is assisting the family of a former student. This assistance includes helping a single father who is confined to his bed with a rare, painful disease for which there is no cure.

Presently, he only has the use of one arm, but cheerfully advocates for others he considers "worse off," Shue said. She added that despite his never ending pain he is "cheerful and optimistic." Shue, alongside Deborah Halley of North Campus, Carolyn Rock of the City Center, Marilyn Berrill, Scott Olsen and Tyrone Stovall wanted to be involved with this event to continue to support local agencies who need the extra donations during the holiday season. In previous years, members of Phi Theta Kappa assisted with delivering the donations

during final exam week. If students are interested in getting further involved with the event, they can email Shue at psheu@jjc.edu or can stop by the Math Office in E Building. Additionally, Phi Theta Kappa members can contact Aurora Devries and the JJC Volunteer Club can contact Marilyn Berrill. For those at North Campus who also want to be involved, a Giving Tree is also present at that location.

According to Shue, there has been an impressive turnout for this time honored tradition amongst the students and staff.

"I am amazed each year at the generosity of JJC students and staff. We've delivered car loads of donations to [the charities]," Shue said.

Alongside the needed items, the organizers also ask for holiday cards giving best wishes for these families in need.

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POLICE BLOTTER

TRESPASSING

ON NOV. 21, JJC POLICE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED A CALL REGARDING A SUBJECT ON CENTENNIAL COMMONS PROPERTY WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY TRESPASSED. OFFICERS WERE DISPATCHED TO COMMONS APARTMENTS TO LOCATE JON W. MITCHELL, OF CHANNAHON. THEY WERE ABLE TO FIND MITCHELL AND PLACE HIM UNDER ARREST FOR VIOLATING THE NOTICE OF TRESPASS. HE WAS BROUGHT BACK TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR PROCESSING AND BONDED OUT WITH A COURT DATE TO BE SET BY THE WILL COUNTY COURT HOUSE.

THEFT OVER \$300

WHILE PATROLLING, A JJC OFFICER WAS DISPATCHED TO THE KK BUILDING FOR A REPORT OF A THEFT THAT HAD OCCURRED. THE OFFICER WAS TOLD THAT SOMETIME BETWEEN EARLY NOVEMBER AND NOV. 21, AN UNKNOWN SUBJECT REMOVED A CPR DUMMY FROM THE AREA WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION. THE SERIAL NUMBER IS BEING LOCATED AND WILL BE REPORTED BACK TO THE OFFICER FOR THE REPORT. THE INVESTIGATION CONTINUES.

BURGLARY FROM MOTOR VEHICLE

WHILE CONDUCTING PATROL, THE REPORTING OFFICER WAS STOPPED IN SOUTH LOT 2 BY A STUDENT REPORTING THAT A CAR RADIO HAD BEEN STOLEN FROM HIS/HER VEHICLE. THE OFFICER WAS TOLD THE CAR HAD BEEN LOCKED BEFORE LEAVING FOR CLASS AND WHEN THE STUDENT RETURNED, THE STUDENT NOTICED THE STEREO MISSING ALONG WITH GYM SHOES. THERE IS ONLY ONE SET OF KEYS TO THE CAR AND THE STUDENT WAS SURE THE VEHICLE WAS LOCKED. THE OFFICER DID NOT OBSERVE ANY SIGNS OF FORCED ENTRY.

News Briefs

Wardeater Premiere Event
On December 11th, JJC's magazine the Wardeater, a publication that compiles student contributed poetry, short fiction, and artwork will be celebrating the publication at its 119th print issue and the debut

of its fall e-zine, an electronic version of the publication, with an awards ceremony, gallery display, and reading at 5-6:30 p.m. on the Main Campus Bridge. Writers and artists from the current issue will share their work to the audience. Special guest readers include JJC alumni and published authors Irving Gamba and Nick Billane. The event is open to the public and will feature an open mic session.

Madri-Gala 2008: Something Olde, Something Yule

On December 12th, JJC's Fine Arts Department will feature this year's Madri-Gala in the Dining Hall and Fine Arts Theater in the Main Campus. A wassail reception will start at 6:45 p.m., with the Madri-Gala program beginning at 7:30 p.m. This year's program will feature merry madrigals, carols, pageantry and humor performed by the JJC Chamber Singers and the JJC brass Quintet. Appetizers and desserts will be prepared by the award-winning Culinary Arts Department under supervision of Chef Fred Farrara. Tickets are \$17 per person, with the proceeds benefitting student scholarships.

Carols and Chocalate

On Sunday, December 14th, the JJC College Chorale will present its Seventh Annual Carols and Chocalate concert at 3 p.m. in the Fine Arts Theater on Main Campus. The concert will feature, A Ceremony at Carols by Benjamin Britten, as well as several seasonal carols from around the world. After the concert, the audience will be invited to enjoy a buffet of chocalate delights donated by local businesses.

Tickets are available at the Fine Arts Theater Box Office one hour prior to the concert with prices as follows: \$5 for adults, \$4 for JJC faculty and staff, non-students, and senior citizens, and \$2 for JJC students.



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Amanda Rottschalk

10 GREAT REASONS TO TRANSFER TO ELMHURST

1 "You get a lot of exposure to the real world. I'm a nursing student," says Amanda Rottschalk. "In my next clinical rotation, I'll take on the nursing care for a pediatric transplant patient."

2 As a transfer student, you're just one of us. About one in three of our students comes to us with experience at another college or university. We understand your academic needs.

3 The transfer process is easy and personal. Our admission counselors will advise you on the course credits you'll need to make your transition to Elmhurst simple.

4 You can afford a great college education. And we'll help! Last year, we offered more than 300 scholarships to

transfer students. More than 86 percent of our students receive financial aid.

5 The college guides have spoken: Elmhurst is among the best in the Midwest. We're "top tier" in *U.S. News* and *The Princeton Review* calls Elmhurst "a small college with a big bang."

6 Elmhurst looks like a college ought to look. The campus is an arboretum with trees from around the world. It covers 38 acres and has 25 buildings, each designed to support your academic and personal development.

7 You'll have your choice of more than 50 majors. Whether you know what your major will be or you're still exploring the possibilities, we'll provide you with an ideal environment to plan your future.

8 In over 100 student organizations, you'll get your chance to lead. Transfer students routinely hold top positions in our Student Government Association, award-winning student newspaper, and throughout campus life.

9 "Elmhurst follows through on its promises. They said they would help me make sure all my credits would transfer, and they did," says Andrew Behling. "They said the faculty would get to know me, and they have."

10 An Elmhurst education is intensely practical. Each of our majors offers both cutting-edge theory and plenty of opportunities to practice how the theory actually works in the real world.



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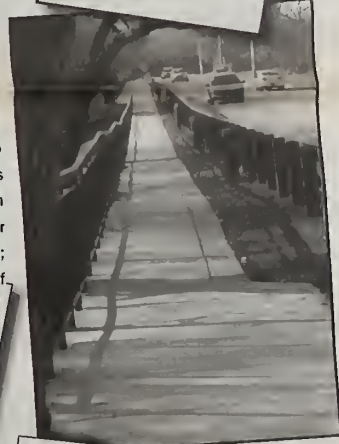
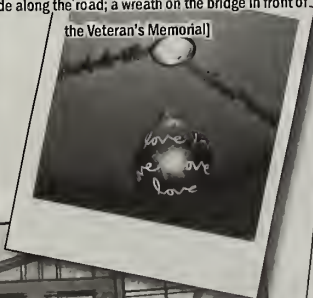
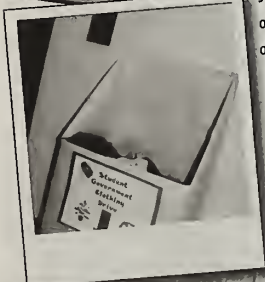
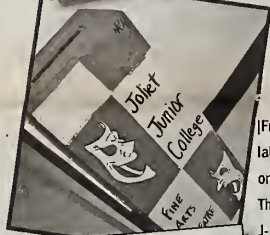
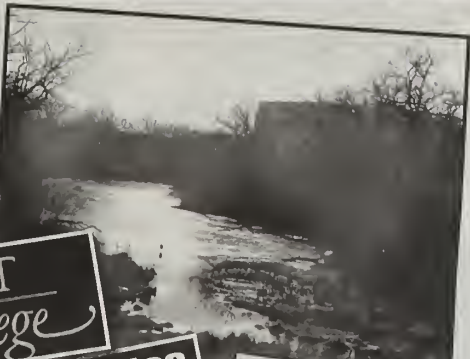
A campus in photos

Photos by Katherine Boehle
and Shelley Holmgren

Although we all walk the halls of this campus every day, rarely do we take the opportunity to take notice of what is around us. Occasionally, the only thing that we see is the number of students on campus, but most have never seen JJC without the crowds of people. So here's a new perspective - from our camera to your eyes.

[From top-right going clockwise: A close-up of the JJC lake; an overview of the lake; a student playing the piano on the bridge; a wooden box outside of the JJC Fine Arts Theatre; the student government clothing drive box in J-Building; an overview of the bridge; the bell tower outside D-Building; a holiday ornament on the bridge; outside along the road; a wreath on the bridge in front of the Veteran's Memorial]

the Veteran's Memorial]



JJC professor publishes 1st book

Cronk-Raby's *Distraction Destruction* self-help guide to life's challenges



Sharon Cronk-Raby

Katherine Boehle
Staff Writer

Everybody has dreams, but life's distractions can get in the way. Joliet Junior College English professor, Sharon Cronk-Raby, recognized this problem, which led to her first published book, *Distraction Destruction*.

Cronk-Raby is a JJC adjunct professor of composition English and also a wife and mother of two girls, with a passion for writing. Friends and family came to Cronk-Raby for her advice on their personal problems.

She started journaling these problems and realized that they all mainly led to one thing: life's distractions. If these distractions get in the way too often, it could lead to destruction.

"People I knew were having some sort of crisis in their life and I wondered, 'Could this happen to me?'" Cronk-Raby said.

With the encouragement of her friends, Cronk-Raby started transforming her journal entries into chapters and came out with a book, *Distraction Destruction*, which is about identifying life's distractions and working through them so that they won't lead you to destruction.

Cronk-Raby immediately went to work on finding a publisher, but with the economy as it is, it was proven difficult to do so, then Inkwater Press accepted her book for publishing.

"I had always wanted to write a book, but I always assumed it would be fiction, as opposed to a self-help book," the part-time professor chuckles. She hopes that this will be her first of many books.

Distraction Destruction came out on August 21 and is available for purchase on Amazon.com, Barnesandnoble.com and Borders.com.



JJC Handmade Navajo jewelry sale a success

Kebbie Lofdash
Staff Writer

Selling necklaces, earrings, bracelets, and peace arrows, Sapphira Scott came to Joliet Junior College with her unique jewelry.

On Dec. 3 in the JJC cafeteria from

10:00 a.m. to

2:00 p.m.,

Sapphi-

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handmade

jewelry items.

Not only did she sell her jewelry pieces, she also explained to students the Navajo life behind each jewelry item.

With every piece of jewelry made there is always one mistake because it is said that only the creator is perfect.

The Navajo jewelry is not your regular type of jewelry. It is more earthy, subtle and handmade with a lot of work, creativity and time behind making each piece.

"There are no diamonds, and it is not machine made. It is creative!" said Barb Messel, Vice President of the Native American Club.

This was a splendid event and was attended by students and faculty. Sapphira knew her jewelry was a big hit and she can't wait to come back and show off more of her beautiful, handmade items.

Happy Holidays
from all of us at the
Blazer to you and your
families!



Ross Katsma
Transfer Counselor

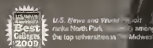
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PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT

Business department's Gawlik stays active advising students



Wayne Gawlik

Josh Green

Staff Writer

Higher Learning Commission (HLC), but it helps us maintain the business department's professional accreditation with The Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP)."

Gawlik keeps active, taking on the role of the faculty adviser for the Dollars & Sense Club.

"As a former stock broker and loan officer, I have a passion for personal finance," Gawlik said.

"Our Dollars & Sense club focuses on entrepreneurship, investing and other financial issues. It is a natural continuation of these personal financial issues. We hope to have some guest speakers share valuable information such as ways to invest in the

information."

Management classes takes up the majority of Gawlik's teaching schedule, but one of his favorite courses to teach is ECON 107: Personal Finance.

He describes what to expect when a student enrolls in Personal Finance by explaining, "this course helps students understand complicated personal financial issues such as how much life insurance a person needs, how to buy the proper amount of auto insurance, is renter's insurance necessary, how to invest in the stock market, what are the reasons to invest in mutual funds, do I need a will, how to read and understand a credit bureau report, how to manage personal debt and

some concepts of estate planning."

Gawlik learned that strong academic advising and student learning assessments are vital to academic success. This intense realization came to him after volunteering with Junior Achievement here at JJC. "It's my desire to emulate many other JJC instructors as well as our school district teachers who continue to mentor, encourage and affirm students at all ages," said Gawlik.

"It's my desire to emulate many other JJC instructors as well as our school district teachers who continue to mentor, encourage and affirm students at all ages."

Wayne Gawlik, Business Department Transfer Adviser

stock market, how to start a business, how to be better prepared when filing personal income tax and how to improve credit bureau

instructors as well as our school district teachers who continue to mentor, encourage and affirm students at all ages," said Gawlik.

JJC hosts annual Winter Jazz Concert

Nicole Zwartz
Staff Writer

Under the direction of Charles Morgan, the JJC Jazz Band presented its annual Winter Jazz Concert on Friday, Dec. 5. The concert began at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Theatre. Admission was \$5 for adults; \$4 for senior citizens, non-JJC students, JJC faculty and staff; and \$2 for JJC students.

The Plainfield North High School Jazz Ensemble, a special guest band directed by Jason LaVallee, opened for the evening. The JJC Jazz Band performed "The Queen

Bee," arranged by Mark Taylor, "Bamburgh," by Les Hooper, "Line Drive," by Carl Strommen, "Sound of Love," and various other songs. The concert featured solos by students Mark Grossi, Steve Williams, Nancy Lehman, Steve Gmbayoy, Janice Murphy, Jeanette Soebing, James Stegall and Dean Adamczyk. The JJC Jazz Band is a community band open to all residents of District 525 who play a jazz instrument.

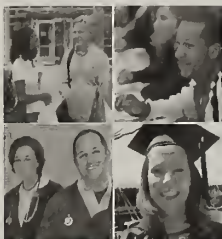
The class meets Wednesday nights from 7 to 9:45 p.m. each semester, and may or may not be taken for credit. For further information about the JJC Jazz Band, contact the fine arts department @ 815-280-2233 or Charles Morgan at rmorgan@jjc.edu.

Interested in getting some practical experience in journalism?—Contact the Blazer at blazemail@jjc.edu



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Top Ten HOLIDAY MOVIES

#1

A Christmas Story

Although most Americans have watched this movie more often than they have watched the news, this cult holiday film never disappoints.

National Lampoons: Christmas Vacation

Two words: Chevy Chase — need we say more? This movie is a treasure amongst the National Lampoons films and a definite holiday staple.

A Charlie Brown Christmas

Come on! This is a movie we have all been watching since our youth. It all been watching since our youth. It never fails to deliver and remind us of a time when we actually believed in Santa Claus.



#3

The Nightmare Before Christmas

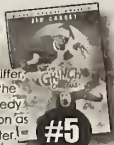
This movie is Tim Burton at his finest. Especially now that this film comes in collector's editions. Always a great film for young and old alike.



#4

The Grinch

Although some would beg to differ, we conceded to choose not the animated Grinch, but this comedy classic where Jim Carey is spot on as the beloved Dr. Seuss character.



#5

Home Alone

All you need to hear Mr. Culkin say is, "Buzz! Your girlfriend is wool!" and you are a goner for this film. It's the first in the series, and by far the best.



#6

Elf

The best part of this movie by far is the impromptu duet between Zoey Deschanel and Will Ferrell in the bathroom. It's awkward and fantastic!



#7

Jingle All The Way

Before he was the Governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger was wearing a different kind of suit, one more fashionable for a 200-lb. jolly man than a politician. Overall, a hilarious film indeed.



#8

The Santa Clause

Tim Allen and facial hair. That's all you need to know for this holiday film.



#9

Bad Santa

Who wouldn't want to sit on Billy Bob Thornton's lap and tell him what they want for Christmas? Plus, it's a chance to see the late-great Bernie Mac in one of his best films.

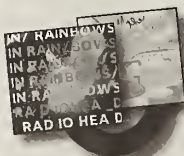


#10

Cover images courtesy of Amazon.com

CHRISTMAS GIFTS \$20 OR LESS!

Here at the Blazer, we understand that you have little to spend this holiday season. Here are some in demand Christmas gifts for everyone at the fraction of the cost:



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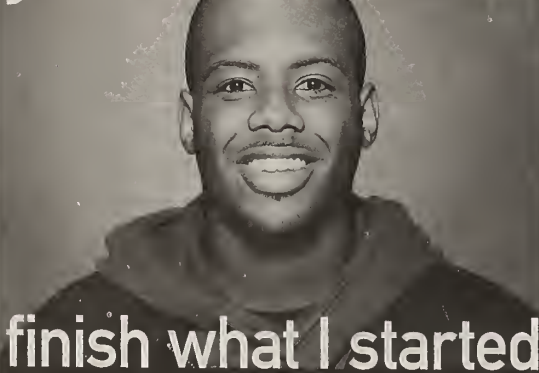
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Question of the Issue

WHAT IS THE BEST AND WORST GIFT YOU HAVE EVER RECEIVED DURING THE HOLIDAYS?



My best Christmas gift was this year. My laptop crashed and my dad surprised me with a new one as a early Christmas gift. The worst was two years ago. My Grandma gave me an actual nutcracker figurine. Thanks Grandma!

KATHY MIREK



The best Christmas present I ever got was my Will. On Christmas morning, I opened a rather heavy bag, and there it was! Of course I screamed, and just about fainted - that was one of the best days of my life. The worst Christmas present I ever got was a lunchbox. I don't even remember what it looked like or anything, but it was horrible.

AMANDA KRAMER



The worst Christmas present I've received was a bottle of men's cologne during a secret Santa exchange. It was really awkward because I barely knew the person and it was difficult to be too enthusiastic about something I could never use. The best Christmas present I've received was a beautiful digital piano. I loved it because it meant a lot that my parents took the time to find something great.

BRENDA LOPEZ

Holiday Mix Tape

By Becka Schallou

This year, instead of listening to the same old jingle bells and Frosty the snowman, try listening to these tracks to get into the holiday spirit!

1. LAST CHRISTMAS - JIMMY EAT WORLD
2. HAPPY CHRISTMAS (WAR IS OVER) - THRICE
3. THE CHRISTMAS SONG - THE RAVEONETTES
4. THE HEARTACHE CAN WAIT - BRANDI CARLILE
5. SANTA CLAUSE IS COMING TO TOWN - MASON JENNINGS
6. LITTLE DRUMMER BOY - THE ALMOST
7. CHRISTMASTIME - SMASHING PUMPKINS
8. AVE MARIA - CHRIS CORNELL & ELEVEN
9. BLUE CHRISTMAS - DUSTIN KENSER
10. O, HOLY NIGHT - BRAND NEW

Fall 2008 Book Buyback — During Exam Week

JJC Bookstore Extended Hours

Month of December 2008 - <u>MAIN CAMPUS</u>	
Dec. 13 (Sat.)	8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Dec. 15-18	7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 19	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Dec. 20 (Sat.)	8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Dec. 22	7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 23	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Closed December 24 through January 4 for the holidays.

Week of January 4, 2009 - MAIN CAMPUS

Jan. 5-8	7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 9	7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Jan. 10 [Sat.]	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Week of January 12, 2009 - MAIN CAMPUS

Jan. 12 & 13	7 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 14 & 15	7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 16	7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Jan. 17 (Sat.)	8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Week of January 19, 2009 - MAIN CAMPUS

<u>Closed - Monday, January 19th</u>	
Jan. 20-22	7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 23	7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Spring 2009 Hours - NORTH CAMPUS

Jan. 10 (Sat.)	8 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Jan. 12-15	8 a.m. - 12 noon & 5:30 - 8 p.m.
Jan. 16	8 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Jan. 17 (Sat.)	8 a.m. - 12:00 noon
<u>Closed - Monday, January 19th</u>	
Jan. 20-22	8 a.m. - 12 noon & 5:30 - 8 p.m.
Jan. 23	8 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Book Buyback Hours Main Campus

Thursday, December 11	8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Friday, December 12	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 13	8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Monday-Thurs. Dec. 15-18	8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Friday, December 19	8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"O" Mail

Monday-Thurs., Dec. 15-18	9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
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North Campus

Wednesday, December 17	6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
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Cinda Williams Chima's Debut

Shawn Faust

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Not too long ago I took a walk through the local Barnes and Noble, scanning the book shelves for a new novel that I could delve into, and I came across a recently published trilogy with the most interesting covers I had seen of late.

The trilogy is known as the Heir series, which includes *The Warrior Heir*, *The Wizard Heir*, and *The Dragon Heir*, all written by author Cinda Williams Chima. I know a cool cover is no reason to pick up a book and start reading it, so I scanned the back of the novels and checked on the inside to get an idea of who Chima was, as I had never heard of her. I found out that the trilogy was her debut as an author.

As a very small contributor to the literature community and a fan of fantasy novels, I felt somewhat obligated to give Chima a chance. The first in the series introduces the reader to sixteen-year-old Jack who lives in the small college town of Trinity in Ohio. He is unremarkable except for a scar on his chest and heart medicine he has had to take since he was a boy.

One day he forgets to take the medicine and finds he is coursing with power that makes

him fiercer and far stronger than before. Soon after that Jack learns the truth about himself, that he is a Weirind, a person powered by and dependent upon the Weirstone that lies in their chest. The Weirstones are divided into types that grant the human various magical abilities depending on the type.

This may seem complicated at first but it plays a vital role in the story as Jack finds out that

The only real gripe I have with them is how terribly written the endings were. The endings seemed thrown together and lacked true closure.

he is one of the last Warriors, a class used by the feuding Wizard houses of the Red and White rose to fight in the Game, a magical tournament in which each house sponsors a warrior to fight to the death. Jack is soon entangled in this long standing war between the two houses and in the process learns more about his heritage and the scar on top of his chest.

The next novel in the series follows upper class Seph McCauley an orphaned, untrained Wizard, with powers escalating out of control, who gets sent to the Havens, a secluded boys' school on the coast of Maine. Headmaster of the school, Gregory Leicester, promises to train Seph in magic and initiate him into a mysterious

order of wizards. Seph soon learns that his training comes at a great cost as Leicester plans to use Seph and the other students' powers to serve his own wicked goals.

The second novel at first seems to stand alone from the first up until the end when the reader learns of Seph's parents. In the final, most recently published novel war explodes between the Wizards and the lesser guilds with Trinity as a haven for those rebelling against the Wizards. The characters from the first two novels are quickly involved in this war and as the story unfolds the origin of the Weirind is learned in connection with the magical absorbing Maddie, the central character of the third novel.

The novels are a quick, easy and very exciting read. The stories jump into the action rather quickly and there are plenty of plot twists that keep the reader hanging on every word. The only real gripe I have with them is how terribly written the endings were. The endings seemed thrown together and lacked true closure.

This was somewhat expected in the first two novels, knowing that a third is coming, but when the third novel's ending was just as bad as the first two, I realized that Chima just does not know how to end a book effectively.

For example, and this is a spoiler, a main character dies by the end of the third novel but

the way it is written makes you feel little or no remorse for the character despite how much you can connect to him throughout the rest of the series. However, despite the poor endings, the novels are worth reading. They have easily relatable characters and intriguing plots. If you have some time on your hands and you like fantasy novels pick up the Heir series, you won't be disappointed.



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LET IT SNOW LET IT SNOW LET IT SNOW

A great book to read on snowy days

Jez Layman

Staff Writer

Let it Snow, in a way, is not one book, but three novellas. Written by three different authors, the book is split into three different parts that make up one great book.

Each part follows a different character (or group) on a different part of the story, and all include a different love story. All of the parts take place in the same time period in the same town and the characters give appearances in parts other than their own.

The first part, *The Jubilee Express*, is written by Maureen Johnson and follows Jubilee Dougan. Jubilee, aside from having the misfortune of being named Jubilee (she assures the reader she's not a stripper or anything like that), has hit some rough luck: her parents have been arrested in a Christmas sale riot and she now has to spend the holidays with her grandparents.

It gets worse, because leaving means she can't be at her boyfriend's

family's annual Christmas party. And even as her train speeds towards Florida, it gets stuck in a snow storm. The train is forced to stop practically in the middle of nowhere, across the empty interstate from a Waffle House. Jubilee leaves the train and heads for the Waffle House.

Unfortunately, she is followed

with his co-workers: the first group of friends to arrive (with Twister) will be allowed in, but the others will not. So it's a race for the guys to get there first. Except that the Duke is a girl, but she's been promised hash browns and adventure, so she's in. The race to be first to the Waffle House is alternately intense and hilarious. In the end, Tobin realizes that maybe love isn't all about cheerleaders and finds an unexpected love.

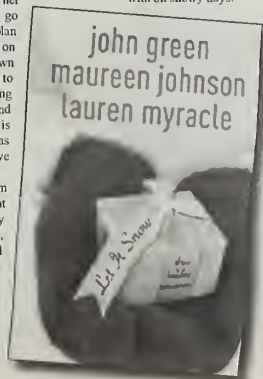
In the third and final part, *The Patron Saint of Pigs*, written by Lauren Myracle, we meet Addie. It's now Christmas day and Addie is not feeling the cheer. She's really messed things up this time. First, she cheated on Jeb, her perfect boyfriend. And then she dyed her hair pink. The biggest snowstorm she can remember has hit her town and she hasn't heard from Jeb in days—not that she blames him.

On top of all this, she still has to work at Starbucks, because they are open no matter what. In an attempt to prove to her friends, Dorrie and Tegan, that she is not selfish, Addie agrees to pick up Tegan's teacup pig (it actually fits in a teacup) from the pet store across the street on her break. Things don't go quite according to plan and Addie has to go on a hunt to track down who the pig was sold to by mistake. Everything turns out in the end though, as Addie is granted her Christmas miracle and her love story.

It's set apart from other books in that instead of seeing only one part of a tale, you see many and see more than one part of that world. Each writer has an individual style, but they all blend together well and are equally great reads. Each love

story is unique and interesting, but more importantly, realistic.

Additionally, all of the characters are enjoyable and relatable. The best part about *Let it Snow* is seeing how all the pieces come together in the end. This is a great book to curl up with on snowy days!



New Releases for the holidays



The Twilight Saga: Silenced [BOX SET] (Hardcover)

by Stephanie Meyer

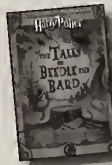
This stunning set, complete with all four hardcover books as well as four collectible prints, makes the perfect gift for fans of the bestselling vampire love story.



Sookie Stackhouse Boxed Set

by Charlaine Harris

The complete seven-book series that inspired the HBO hit-series True Blood is a sure holiday hit for fans of the show.



The Tales of Beedle the Bard by J.K. Rowling

Offering the trademark wit and imagination familiar to Rowling's legions of readers—as well as Aesop's wisdom and the occasional darkness of the Brothers Grimm—each of these five tales reveals a lesson befitting children and parents alike: the strength gained with a trusted friendship, the redemptive power of love, and the true magic that exists in the hearts of all of us.

Brisingr (Inheritance, Book 3) by Christopher Paolini

Following the colossal battle against the Empire's warriors on the Burning Plains, Eragon and his dragon, Saphira, have narrowly escaped with their lives. Still there is more at hand for the Rider and his dragon, as Eragon finds himself bound by a tangle of promises he may not be able to keep.



Multiple Blessings by Jon Gosselin, Kate Gosselin and Beth Carson

In *Multiple Blessings*, Kate Gosselin shares the gripping details of her rollercoaster ride of emotional highs and lows when she discovered she and her husband, Jon, would be expecting sextuplets while still basking in the light of their twin girls' toddlerhood.

Images and product description courtesy of Publisher's Weekly

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C I N E M A
S C E N E

Four Christmases

Reviewed by Kimberly Salton

Four Christmases, released on Nov. 26, is the first film to grace movie theaters during this Christmas season, and although it topped the box office its opening weekend, it brought more of a "bah, humbug" feeling than "ha ha ha."

The movie is about an unmarried couple, Kate (Reese Witherspoon) and Brad (Vince Vaughn), who have avoided for three years spending Christmas with their set of divorced parents by lying and going on vacation. When the weather forces the airlines to cancel all flights, Kate and Brad must spend Christmas day with all four of their families while dealing with sour memories and surprises at every turn.

There was a lack of chemistry between Vaughn and Witherspoon that made the movie very dull because it was hard to imagine that these two people would really be in a relationship. They are both tremendous actors and can light up

a screen separately, but together, Vaughn stole the show by delivering the very few, laugh-out-loud moments, leaving Witherspoon to stand in the background as nothing but a prop. Vaughn clearly needs an actress that can balance him out.

Other casting problems dealt with the parents, whom are four talented Oscar winners that were anything but in this movie. Robert Duvall and Sissy Spacek play Brad's parents and Jon Voight and Mary Steenburgen play Kate's parents. Each of them barely received any screen time, and when they were present, the ridiculous material that was delivered hid their talent. The biggest delight to me, besides Vaughn, was the wonderfully talented Kristen Chenoweth who plays Kate's sister.

If you are looking for a movie to put you in the holiday spirit this season, skip *Four Christmases* and dig out those classic Christmas movies instead. You will save about \$9.50 and some of your precious time.

Twilight

Reviewed by Shelley Holmgren

On Nov. 21, over-night success *Twilight*, released into sold-out theaters and into the hearts of teens worldwide. Based on the book by Stephenie Meyer, the story is a typical boy-meets-girl, boy and girl fall in love scenario - er, except the fact that the boy is actually a vampire who wants to drink her like a slurpee.

Even before *Twilight* came out in theaters, a sense of panic and dread was already settled within me like a bad case of parasites. Of course, I had my predispositions about the story before I saw the movies. I had read the books and already had the distinct visualization of how the movie should pan out on screen. While watching the film, I found myself sometimes smiling like a village idiot, I was so pleased. Other times, when I realized how abstracted it was from the book, or if it was just plain terrible, became all that more knowledgeable of my bowel movements. For example, there is a moment in the film when Edward refers to Bella as a "spider monkey." I'm not going to lie - I vomited a little.

One of the aspects of the film that made me wish it was over, was the way the film progressed. Both the screenplay and the way the film is shot, for lack of a better word, are very choppy. One second, the two main characters absolutely loathe each other, the next second, they are pledging their souls to one another. Is it just me, or is this relationship progressing way too fast?

This flaw would especially affect those who (heaven forbid) haven't read the book yet, and thus, aren't familiar with the story that takes place in between these fast jumps in plot. I empathize that there is only so much you can fit in a 122 minute film, but seriously, did you have to make it this hot mess, Catherine Hardwicke? Really?

The trailers that were released in no way did the movie justice. It was as if they intentionally chose the most awful moments of each

actor's performance and played it non-stop in the mainstream.

I want to note that the one aspect of this movie that was absolutely pristine was the casting. Although previous to this movie I had loathed Kristen Stewart, who plays Bella in the film, watching her performance, I realized that maybe I shouldn't judge her that harshly. In my opinion, one of the most important castings of this film would be the Cullen family, which to my pleasant surprise, was casted quite marvelously. All the characters embody the perfect, immortal being that they portray. The one major downfall to this, however, is that you never get to see them for the film. It's a shame for such fitting casting to go to waste.

However, the best part of the entire film is Robert Pattinson, with his dead-on portrayal of the immortal teenager. To all of those who doubted his ability to deliver - stop drooling. I know he's fantastic. He echoes Edward perfectly in regards to the intensity of the character - his eyes burn into the screen and remind the 12-year-old girls who are out past curfew to see the film, that their outing was not in vain. I think one of the biggest talents that Pattinson possesses is his subtlety. It's in the small moments of the film where he smiles or only nods, but it's rather profound how these small movements really reinforce his character.

I would also like to applaud the music supervisor of the film, Alexandra Patsavas, the music supervisor behind *The O.C.*, *Grey's Anatomy*, and *Gossip Girl*. With artists like Muse (a personal favorite of Meyer's), Iron & Wine, and even Pattinson himself, Patsavas brings a youthful 'cool' to the film - although I could have done without the Paramore, thank you very much.

Although I would love to give this movie a shining review, there were way too many inconsistencies to enjoy the film all the way through. Who knows - maybe they will finally wise up for the film adaption of the next book. However, like a vampire, I won't hold my breath.

The Killers venture to new 'Day & Age' with 4th album

Shelley Holmgren

Production Manager

Day & Age is most notably a dive into 80's nostalgia. Since their debut *Hot Fuss*, The Killers have developed the uncanny ability to shift their sound from one album to the next.

In their sophomore album, *Sam's Town*, the band followed a formula more derivative of guitar-enriched tracks than the synth pop they originally exploded on the music scene with.

One thing that stood out to me is that although this album has some fading waves of the group's third release *Sawdust*, it is luckily a breath of fresh air from the ill-fated LP.

One song that the group loosens their musical equation for is "Losing Touch," which, dare I say it, includes a pulsing saxophone, something the group hasn't experimented with thus far. The track is smooth, and quite possibly seductive, well, as seductive as a brass instrument can be. I guess it all depends on personal preference, huh?

When I originally heard the first single from the album, "Human," I breathed a sigh of relief to realize that it wasn't another train wreck track from *Sawdust*.

The song itself is evocative of an 80's dance floor, a throbbing pulse, sass and a whole lot of synth. Of course, as fans have come to love, The Killers have never been a stranger to the synth.

This album is especially stirring of their two-decade old sound. However, listening to the lyrics stopped me a moment. "Are we humans? Or are we dancers?" I admit it is not the finest set of lyrics from man Brandon Flowers has penned, but it definitely reinforces the idea of the new wave sound.

Personally, listening to this track, I found that I much rather would be a dancer than a human, the only problem with that scenario being that I have the dance aptitude of Sarah Palin. And there you go, the last time I will probably ever be able to demean the Alaskan governor, but I shall move on.

One of my favorite tracks on this album was "Spaceman," most notably because at first listen, you are actually not to sure if it's Brandon's vocals on the track - I assure you, it is he, but you will be rather surprised with the results.

He taps into his upper register which is always refreshing. He's no Chris Martin, but it's still quite a feat to hit those high C's.

However, the song is rather



peculiar for the content, especially when you listen to the song and realize that it's awfully uplifting considering it's about slicing and dicing an alien. Where are Scully and Mulder to save this song? Probably off making more strange sequels, but I digress.

Next, the album presents the track "Joy Ride" that is a fusion of Franz Ferdinand meets *Night at the Roxbury*. You listen to it and you get the image of a 100-year old woman with blue eye shadow and a vicious black jack strait How coincidental that the chorus begins "When your chips are down" - Granny must have gotten lucky.

The moving piano melody, although the chord progression is predictable, Brandon crooning the words "I don't believe you," definitely makes you swoon for the Las Vegas native.

As the album progresses, you find that the sound shifts less than subtly from the synth pop to other musical venues. "I Can't Stay" has a Mediterranean feel to it, whereas a track like "Rings" Tiger" brings

truer to the epicenter of Sam's Town, rather than the band's debut album.

One of the most musically impressive songs on the album was "A Dustland Fairytale." The moving piano melody, although the chord progression is predictable, Brandon crooning the words "I don't believe you," definitely makes you swoon for the Las Vegas native.

The final track "Goodnight, Travel Will" sounds like a requiem to the departing space man that was turned to sushi only a few tracks previously.

As you listen, you realize that this isn't a happy send off, but instead, almost alluding to the idea that the poor soul is about to be lost in the abyss of a black hole.

"To cast my shadow by the boly sun," Brandon's low vibrato sings to a morbid baritone pulse. Listening to such a departure, it sinks into you that this could be your own requiem one day. Which, with Mr. Flowers behind the mike, what a way to go.

Overall, I was quite impressed with this album, congratulating myself for supporting the cascading music sales by spending the \$12 on an actual CD, thank you very much.

Day & Age is a celebration of the multiple sounds that this band can evoke, and there is definitely a song for every listener.

Lady Wolves snap 3-game losing streak

Jacob Boersma
Staff Writer

The 2008-09 season for the Joliet Junior College women's basketball team is already nine games into the year. New head coach Shaun Sanderson and his coaching staff are gearing for a hopeful national championship run.

The Lady Wolves got off to a fast start winning four of their first five games. The wins were against Prairie State College, Gage Community College, Oakton Community College, and Milwaukee Area Technical College with the one loss coming against Rochester Community & Technical College. The Lady Wolves were ranked 7th in the latest NJCAA Division III poll. Their record stands at 5-4 overall.

However, the team has only won one of their last four games with the win against Morton College on Dec. 4 by a score of 69-43. The Lady Wolves suffered through a three game losing streak against Illinois Valley Community College, Danville Area Community College and Moraine Valley Community College before picking up the win against Morton. Terri Wamsley, Candace Berryhill and Martha Benjamin scored 10 points each. Wamsley earned a double-double, grabbing 10 rebounds.

This is Coach Sanderson's first season as head coach but he served as an assistant coach the three previous seasons, each of which had playoff implications. Even with a 20-10 record and a loss in the first round of the playoffs, Sanderson still has high expectations for this season, despite the 5-4 start. He has not lost his confidence in his team.

"We have the ability to win the national title, but we are still very young and we need to develop as a team to be able to win that championship," said Sanderson.

The Lady Wolves are led



Freshman guard Roneisha Mitchell puts up a lay-up against the defense of Moraine Valley CC.

Photo by Mike D'Amico

by sophomore captains Chelsea Crawford and Benjamin. Wamsley leads the team in points per game with 13.5 as well as rebounds per game with nine and

was named the Region IV Division III Player of the Week on Dec. 1. Roneisha Mitchell leads the team in assists with five per game.

Overall the team seems to be coming together well with 4 players averaging at least 10 points a game.

The Lady Wolves play four

of their next five games at home including a game against Wau-bensee Community College on Dec. 11 and a game against Lake Michigan College on Dec. 15.

Sports during Christmas are some of the best of the year

Jake Widowski
Sports Editor

Sports are a huge part of the American lifestyle. Americans are not afraid to drop large amounts of money to watch, support and cheer on their favorite sports teams. On top of this, people travel thousands of miles every year just to watch their team live and in person.

While most Americans are buying Christmas gifts and spending time with family and friends, right now is also a great time to be a sports fan. And as the weather

turns to colder and snowy conditions, the tradition of American athletics is just heating up.

The NFL season, for example, is coming down to the home stretch and the contenders are separating themselves from the pretenders. Despite a stellar season (at best) from our home town Chicago Bears, there is a lot to be excited about for the rest of the NFL season.

With only just over a month to go before the Super Bowl, the Tennessee Titans and the defending NFL champion New York Giants appear to be the teams to

COMMENTARY

beat when the postseason rolls around.

With the month of November in the books, college basketball is already appearing to be in midseason form as well. The state schools of Illinois such as the University of Illinois, Northwestern and Illinois State University are having successful seasons and have a combined record of 18-2 in the early goings of the 08-09 campaign.

And why look further than our own backyards when looking for exciting college basketball action? The men's and women's basketball teams here at Joliet Junior College are also having superb seasons and are both ranked among the nation's best for junior colleges.

A night at Wills Gymnasium here on the campus of JJC is a great atmosphere and makes for a great place to watch a college game.

Some will also argue that college football is the best sport to watch during this time of the year.

The top teams have shifted and changed throughout the season and the college bowl games will begin on December 20.

Most people look for some relief of the financial stresses and complications of the holiday season. And what better way to relax and revitalize yourself than by enjoying a game of your favorite sports team?

So when you are feeling a little overwhelmed this Christmas-time, turn on the TV or go to your local high school or college and enjoy a sporting event. You will not be disappointed.

Sports

Wolves drop 2 straight

Team suffers first losses of the season

Jake Widlowski
Sports Editor

The Joliet Junior College men's basketball team started the season with 7 straight wins, but they have dropped their last two games and their overall record is now 7-2.

To account for the Wolves sixth and seventh wins of the season, JJC pounded Milwaukee Tech 90-68, and Lake County 99-68. Freshman guard LeAaron Pierce contributed greatly in the two wins scoring 27 points in the first game and 28 points in the second game.

After blowing out their past two opponents JJC looked lackadaisical in their home game

against Moraine Valley Community College on Dec. 2. They appeared to be oversized in the post during the game and especially in the first half as Moraine Valley jumped out to a half-time lead of 33-22. The first 7 minutes of the second half was a different story as JJC went on a 16-6 run thanks to a determined Brandon Redmond and pulled to within just one point of the lead.

Despite the run, the Wolves couldn't hold on to the ball and turnovers plagued them as Moraine Valley held on to win the game 65-57. Redmond scored a team-high 21 points and tried to make up for the off night by team leader Pierce. Moraine did an excellent job containing Pierce and he ended the game with only 6

points.

Just two days later the Wolves attempted to avenge their first loss of the season when they played Morton College. JJC came out firing in the first half and had a 39-34 lead at half-time. Once again Pierce had an excellent game and he scored all of his 13 points in the first half. JJC had 10 turnovers in the first half and the lack of ball security appeared to be a precursor of what was to come in the second half.

Morton came out in the second half with a full court pressing defense and forced the Wolves into 19 turnovers in the final 20 minutes. The Wolves couldn't take care of business and lost the game 70-67. Head Coach Joe Kuhn was not happy.

"Obviously, you can't have 29 turnovers and expect good things to happen," said Kuhn. "I was concerned with the nine turnovers we had in the first half. And it certainly got worse in the second."

Going into the game against Moraine Valley CC on Dec. 2, the Wolves were ranked number 1 in the nation among junior colleges according to NJCAA polls. But JJC will expect to take a big hit and may even drop out of the top 10 when the rankings come out again next week.

Despite the two game losing streak, the Wolves will un-

doubtedly bounce back and start to win games again. JJC has too many individual weapons on offense and defense to be shut down for too long.

LeAaron Pierce leads the team in scoring, averaging 16 points per game. Tera Whisby is averaging a double-double with 12 points and 11 rebounds per game. Starting point guard Lamar Williams is also having a successful

season, averaging 8 points and 5 assists per game.

JJC's next game is against the junior varsity team from Olivet Nazarene University at home on Dec. 11.

Also, the Wolves will play their first conference game of the season against the College of DuPage on Jan. 13.

Brandon Redmond scored a team high 21 points in the loss to Moraine Valley CC.



Pierce drives down the lane and pulls up for a shot in the Dec. 2 loss to Moraine Valley CC. Pierce ended with 6 points for the game.

Photo by Mike DiIorio



Sophomore Lamar Williams calls out a play against Moraine Valley CC on Dec. 2.

Photo by Mike DiIorio

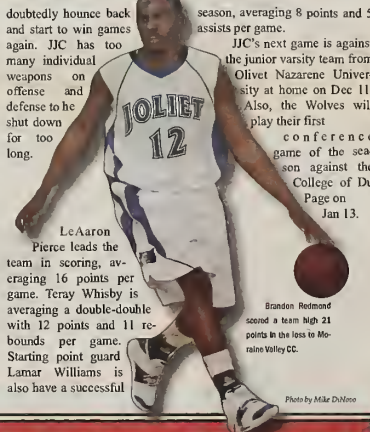


Photo by Mike DiIorio

MALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE

BY JAKE WIDLANSKI

Freshman guard LeAaron Pierce from Joliet Township High School, has established himself as the best scorer so far this season for the Wolves. Pierce has been on a tear for the Wolves since Nov. 15. In the championship game of the Madison Area Tech Tournament, Pierce scored 22 points on 6-12 shooting from three-point range. In the next three games after the tournament, he scored 16, 27, and 28 points respectively, with most of his scoring coming from behind the three-point arc. Pierce also added 13 points in the loss to Morton College on Dec. 4. Pierce leads the Wolves in scoring for the season, averaging 16 points per game and is shooting 46 percent from three-point range.



Sophomore Terri Warnsley has had a successful past few weeks of the season. On Nov. 29 Warnsley had a team high 20 points and also added 6 steals in the loss to Danville Area Community College. The next game against Moraine Valley resulted in another loss despite another eight points from Warnsley. The Lady Wolves snapped their three-game losing streak on Dec. 4 with a win over Morton College. Warnsley had a double-double, scoring 10 points and grabbing 10 rebounds in the game. Warnsley leads the Lady Wolves in scoring for the season with 14 points per game. And surprisingly, at only 5'7" tall, she also leads JJC in rebounds with nine per game.

